K

Mr. ORDE's PLAN

OF AN IMPROVED

SYSTEM OF EDUCATION

IN IRELAND;

SUBMITTED TO THE

HOUSE of COMMONS,

APRIL, 12, 1787;

WITH THE DEBATE WHICH AROSE THEREON.

REPORTED

BY *JOHN GIFFARD*, ESQ.

—— Knowledge to their Eyes her ample Page
Rich with the Spoils of Time, did ne'er unroll:
Chill Penury repreſs'd their noble Rage,
And froze the genial Current of the Soul.

Full many a Gem of pureſt ray ſerene,
The Dark unfathomed Caves of Ocean bear;
Full many a Flower is born to bluſh unſeen,
And waſte its Sweetneſs on the deſert Air.

GRAY.

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M.DCC.LXXVII.

1787

BRITISH MUSEUM

ADVERTISEMENT.

NOTWITHSTANDING the great Care and Attention with which the Reporter has endeavoured to lay this Work correctly before the Public, he finds, upon re-examining his Notes, and comparing them with the printed Copy, that ſome Errors have unavoidably eſcaped him, to which the Preſs has added many more—the moſt ſtriking of them he has noted on the Back of this Page.——He thinks it neceſſary to apprize the Reader of this Circumſtance, and with all poſſible Reſpect and Humility to aſſure the Public, that, conſcious of his own Inability, nothing could have emboldened him to lay this Work before them but the fulleſt Conviction of Mind that, in making the following Plan univerſally known, he is rendering eſſential Service to this Nation.

ERRATA.

Page	Line	
11,	25,	dele *not.*
—	28,	for *on*, read *in.*
13,	28,	for *rubbing out*, read *ſmoothing away.*
18,	3,	after *was*, read *not.*
19,	1,	for *leaſt*, read *laſt.*
22,	11,	after *fine*, read *and.*
30,	14,	after *community*, read *may.*
34,	3,	for *a part of an*, read *ſome ſmall.*
37,	18,	before *inducement*, inſert *The.*
49,	17,	for *to*, read *in.*
—	30,	dele *the.*
54,	11,	for *ſcholars*, read *ſchools.*
58,	24,	for *make*, read *take.*
59,	23,	dele *annual.*
66,	23,	for *and*, read *in.*
81,	26,	after *inſtruction*, a full ſtop; and for *the*, read *theſe.*
—	27,	for *theſe*, read *the.*
89,	4,	for *deſerving*, read *acquiring.*
95,	25,	for *unuſual*, read *uſual.*
98,	1,	for *and*, read *or.*
102,	15,	for *advantage to*, read *advantages in.*

Mr. ORDE's

PLAN, &c.

HOUSE OF COMMONS,

THURSDAY, APRIL 12, 1787.

THE Right Hon. Mr. Orde moved, that that part of the Lord Lieutenant's ſpeech, at the opening of the preſent ſeſſion, which reſpects public education, be now read; it was read accordingly in the following words:

"I hope that ſome liberal and extenſive plan "for the general improvement of education will "be matured for an early execution."

Mr. Orde then moved, that the Houſe do forthwith reſolve itſelf into a committee of the whole Houſe, to take the foregoing paragraph into conſideration.

The Houſe reſolved itſelf into a committee accordingly, Mr. Solicitor General in the chair.

Mr. Orde then ſaid—After the various notifications with which the ſubject of education has been announced to parliament and to the public, and after the gracious exhortations under the royal authority in the ſpeeches of my Lord Lieutenant from the throne, in two ſucceſſive ſeſſions, to the conſideration of it, and after the almoſt univerſal encouragement, even to a degree of impatience, with which the mention of it has been received here on ſeveral occaſions, it would be ill-timed and inconſiſtent indeed in me to make apologies to this committee for the trouble, which I am now about to impoſe upon you, by bringing at laſt this important topic into diſcuſſion, and venturing to introduce it by the declaration of my own ſentiments upon it. The long delay which has been uſed in this buſineſs, ſhould rather be the motive of excuſe, which indeed I am anxious to urge with ſucceſs, as I am obliged to acknowledge myſelf to have been in a great meaſure the cauſe of it from circumſtances however involuntary, yet ſtill perſonal. I would avoid to take up your time by a repetition of them here, but I am ſorry to be under the neceſſity of adding, that the effect cannot be entirely remedied at preſent, becauſe, although I ſhall propoſe to you ſome principles, which, I hope, may receive your approbation, for a general plan, I am not yet prepared to call upon you to give your ultimate ſanction to the means of its execution. I am ſolicitous at all events to be able to convince you, that the frequent notices, which I have given, were not calculated to excite imaginary expectations

tions of a ſyſtem which was never likely to be formed, or of a nature too eccentric for accompliſhment or practicability. I am earneſt to reſcue the credit and conſiſtency of government, from ſuch a poſſible imputation of having uſed empty profeſſions or idle ſpeculations, or above all, of having been deficient in reſpect and conſideration of what is due to the gravity and to the dignity of parliament. It is only from ſimilar apprehenſions of ſeeming to betray any ſymptom of careleſſneſs or indifference about the opinion of this committee, that I refrain from ſpeaking with confeſſion and apology, however neceſſary, in regard to my own unequal preparation, becauſe, upon ſuch an occaſion, it would not only be indecent, but almoſt impoſſible to venture upon any addreſs at all to you without much *previous reflection* at leaſt, upon the whole and every part of ſo extenſive and ſo complicated a ſyſtem. Yet I ſhould be guilty of injuſtice to myſelf, and of impoſition upon you, if I omitted to ſay one word of previous atonement for the want of method and arrangement in the matter which I have to ſubmit to you, and to expreſs a hope, that I may call upon yourſelves as witneſſes of the conſtant variety and ſucceſſion of important buſineſs, which render me perhaps leſs capable than any other perſon, of a perfect attention to any one particular object. Under the aſſurance therefore of ſuch indulgence, as you are always diſpoſed to give to the beſt exertions, which can be made by any of your members for the general information, I ſhall proceed to open the ſubject to you. I flatter myſelf,

ſelf, that I am not miſtaken in ſuppoſing, that I take the moſt likely method of obtaining the approbation of the committee, by making uſe of as plain and as ſimple a ſtyle as poſſible, when I ſeek to impreſs my thoughts upon your attention; and I muſt venture to run the hazard of any poſſible prepoſſeſſion, which may be conceived in any quarter againſt me, from this previous declaration, that I ſhall purpoſely avoid, (from the motive I have mentioned, as well as the juſt ſenſe of my own inſufficiency) even any attempt to make a *luminous oration.*

The ſubject indeed is ſuch as not only might afford, but obtrudes materials and provocation for the fancy to indulge itſelf in working them into ſhape and figure. If I ſhould ſuffer my mind to be hurried away by the enthuſiaſm with which it is inſpired, and ſhould take my flight through all the regions of claſſic imagery to draw reſources from ideal converſe with antient ſages and inſtructors of the olden times, and to ſelect for your conſideration and adoption leſſons and maxims from ſuch authority, by which learning and ſcience have been ſucceſſively diffuſed through other nations.

> " Non uſitatâ nec tenui ferar
> " Pennâ;"

even I could put forth a pinion of ſtrength ſufficient to bear me aloft " above the limits of a vulgar ſphere." I might thus gratify the impulſe of my own conceptions, but very poſſibly at the riſk of my own clear reaſoning and your comprehenſion,

prehenſion, the ſafety of both which I chuſe to prefer to the repreſentation of any viſion how pleaſing ſoever. I ſhall therefore purpoſely deſcend from the " winged courſers of the air," and endeavour quietly to take my path through the different walks of the wide range before me, and try to lead this audience with me, ſeeking to make you take notice, as we go onward, of every natural beauty and production of the ſoil, or to ſearch out the latent powers of vegetation and fertility, ſome of which, well worthy of cultivation, may be diſcerned in the moſt humble and deſerted quarter of the ſcene. It is my chief object to engage and ſatisfy your attention, and ſhew you the rich germins of neglected exuberancy which you poſſeſs, and which the ſimpleſt regard and exertion may call forth into bloſſoms, covering with beauty and fragrance the whole face of the land, until by degrees the continuance of your care ſhall mature them into fruit, not only refreſhing to your taſte, but invigorating to your conſtitution.

Here indeed, perhaps, I ought not to proceed without apology, that even in this humble progreſs I ſhould ſeem to think myſelf capable of conducting your ſteps, and of pointing out to your obſervation the beauties of your country, with which I may be ſuppoſed to have ſo little acquaintance either as to its natural productions, or to thoſe of which by culture it is capable. An exotic myſelf, I hardly perhaps, even after being above three years tranſplanted among you, have taken ſufficient root in your confidence to induce

you

you to acquieſce in the ſuggeſtions of my judgment. But let it be remembered how frequently it happens, that a ſtranger's eye and obſervation are by preference invited to ſketch out a general idea or ſcheme for the diſpoſition and arrangement of the grounds, which form our moſt favourite domaines, becauſe ſuch are moſt likely to give an impartial opinion, and to be leaſt liable to the influence of local and minute predilections; and becauſe our own habituated view does not diſcover, or is not ſtruck with the rude or ill-contrived diviſions which ſhould be new caſt and improved; or by dwelling too much on ſome one favourite ſpot, perhaps not moſt worthy of ſelection, it loſes the power of ſurveying the general proſpect with a large reach of examination and compariſon, and of according all the parts together, ſo as to make each a beauty in itſelf, but more ſo by its harmony with the reſt, and by its neceſſary introduction to accompliſh the whole.

The more intereſting field, of which we are about to take the ſurvey, may not be injured or diſfigured by the intermeddling of a foreign inſpector, who after all will pretend to no right, or even a wiſh to preſcribe, but merely to offer with unaffected ſincerity the beſt ideas, which occur to him, by way of hints to your own conſideration for their adoption or rejection, according as you ſhall determine of their utility or practicability. I muſt alſo urge, not as my apology but as my recommendation, that I am thus, altho' a voluntary and a zealous, not an officious intruder,

intruder, becauſe I only appear as the humble ſubſtitute for the illuſtrious ſuperintendent, to whom is committed the care of your eſtate, who is prevented by ſtation from being himſelf the immediate guide of your ſteps, and who condeſcends to employ me in labour under his direction, and from whom I have ſtudied to collect ideas and remarks for your deciſion. He will be allowed to have not only taſte to diſcover, but ſincere wiſhes as well as ſkill ſo to contrive the management of any defects as to improve all and every part of the region, over which he is choſen to preſide, for your gratification and for your enjoyment of the effect, but aſſuredly alſo for his own credit and ſelf-indulgence, in having been the means (if happily he ſhall become the means) of producing it for you.

"Hinc omne principium, huc refer exitum."

Confidence indeed however can hardly be withheld, even without ſuch invitation to it, upon a ſubject where there can be no call or object for the official interference of government, and no poſſible motive for its exertion of a forward zeal, but the ambition (which is directly avowed) to obtain poſſibly a deſerving place in your remembrance, and thereby at the ſame time to teſtify the high rate of eſtimation at which ſuch diſtinction is valued. No ſymptom or ſuſpicion of parties or diviſion among us can be apprehended upon a queſtion of ſuch intereſting importance to the whole community, and which is brought forward

upon this ſimple footing, to excite the attention and engage the co-operation of every friend to his country.

I recollect a ſtrong expreſſion upon a ſubject of this kind, and let me apply it here, although originally addreſſed to our ſiſter country, in which it is no longer applicable, " For the lack " of education your land periſheth." Haſten to its relief, open over it the fountains of inſtruction, and ſaturate the dull and parched ſoil with the waters of improvement, and knowledge.

In many caſes (and I truſt it may be ſo in this) the univerſality and exceſs of a malady excite a more general exertion of conſideration and ſkill, and give thereby a greater chance of remedy and cure. Nothing is wanting here but the ſimple effort to overcome indifference or deſpondency. Ceaſe to vent your feelings in this reſpect, as you are now heard to do, by fruitleſs lamentations or idle reproaches on the defects of your preſent ſyſtem, or rather upon the want of any ſyſtem at all. Give the animation which is due to your own ſenſibility, and do not heſitate at the attempt to become an example of more general perfection than has yet been ſeen in any country. You feel and you acknowledge, that all wants reformation; dare to give the word, and let that general ſpirit pervade the whole circle of tuition. Reform all together, or begin to reform upon ſuch a principle, as may firſt perſuade you to introduce a generous ſyſtem, and then impel you forward with an uniform zeal to accompliſh

its

its perfection by gradual improvement and extenſion. Take it as an incentive rather than a controul upon your reſolution, that no country has ever yet perhaps conceived the idea of inſtituting a general ſyſtem; none certainly has ever even attempted the application of it in ſucceſſive gradations to all ranks of the people.—Give then the model to the world, and be yourſelves the firſt inſtances of its practicability, and ſuperior excellence. You are capable of its adoption, and you will deſerve the triumph of its accompliſhment. Look then to your fellow ſubjects of all ranks with zeal and intereſt for their improvement, but caſt your earlieſt, your moſt benign and conſiderate regard upon the loweſt orders of the people. They are after all moſt neceſſary to you as the great ground-plot of the ſcene, upon whoſe boſom all your beauties are to riſe, and which is to be intermixed and harmonized with every part of your proſpect.

It will not be conceived that I have formed the romantic expectation of being able to execute at once every diviſion of ſo extenſive a ſcheme. We may take a ſample of each, except that I do not venture to hope, we may go farther for *the people.*

I am aware of the difficulties and embarraſſments which ariſe even on the ſpeculation of a ſyſtem of education upon ſuch a plan, as to be extended in its benefits to all parts of the community, and to be adapted in its ſeveral branches to youth of various degrees of rank, and whoſe future purſuits in life will be extremely different. I

am ſenſible that the difficulty is much increaſed as the mind proceds to conſider the materials and the methods for carrying it into execution. But the object is of ſo great importance, and it is ſo eſſentially neceſſary to comprehend in it all orders of the people, eſpecially in this country, for the very purpoſe of giving in ſome parts a new turn and direction to the national character and habits, that it ſhould not only, not be looked upon with a view to partial application, (altho' one general and uniform method will not ſuit all the component parts of ſociety) but that we ſhould not be diſmayed by the intervention of even ſerious impediments. For my own part, earneſt always to avoid the imputation of preſumptuous confidence, I ſhould yet be almoſt tempted to aſſure you, that

—— non ulla laborum
nova mî facies inopinave ſurgit;
Omnia præcepi atque animo mecum ante peregi.

It would indeed, be unpardonable in me to have appeared before you upon a ſubject, and with propoſitions of the kind, which I have to ſubmit to you, if I had not ſtudied to foreſee and to call for and to provoke the objections and obſtacles which might be offered or obtruded againſt ſo extraordinary a meaſure. I have, of courſe, ſought to remove ſuch as appeared to be within the compaſs of my own ability, and I humbly indulge a hope that I am prepared to point

out

out to you, how You may diſſipate or ſubdue the reſt.

There are in effect, within your own poſſeſſion and command a variety of outlines, which may require only to be marked with more diſtinction, and to be improved by ſome few interlineations. Let nothing deter or divert you from the earlieſt attention to ſuch an employment. Take with confidence the pencil into your hand, and fear not to ſcratch the rough or blotted eſſay which may, not unſkilfully, be made to help the invention in the arrangement of her objects, and in working at laſt the favourite picture into ſhape and harmony. This is a work which muſt be in itſelf moſt pleaſing, and in its conſequences a reward beyond all charge of labour. This is a time when, as the attempt is moſt neceſſary, the accompliſhment muſt be moſt grateful. You have been obliged to correct the unfortunate conſequences of a want of education with a rude and a ſevere hand, and much miſtaken indeed am I in my eſtimation of your feelings, if you are not ſoon humanely diſpoſed to throw the ſcourge of caſtigation behind you, and to ſubſtitute for it in the ſame hand a remedy of more gentle, but not of leſs efficacious influence, by infuſing the balm of information into the wounds of ignorance, and by rubbing out the diſgraceful ſtigma with the balſam of prevention. This is a work, which muſt not only in itſelf be pleaſing to us all, but in an eſpecial degree to thoſe, who are unfortunately charged with the enforcement of the laws. Laws of coercion are unavoidably to be

ſanctioned

ſanctioned by you for the controul and puniſhment of a rude and diſorderly multitude, and for the protection of ſociety; but it is impoſſible not to feel a ſort of compunction in the moment of their indiſpenſable execution upon ignorance and miſery. Remove at leaſt this check upon the decrees of juſtice, and make the wretches ſenſible that they compel the ſtroke, which reluctantly falls upon them; that they not only incur the certainty of puniſhment, but wantonly throw away bleſſings by their wildneſs and indocility—Let them have inſtilled into their minds ſome little notion of the compact and the duties of ſociety; make them comprehend in ſome degree the comforts as well as the reſtraints of civilization; the extent of their inſtruction may after all even thus be included in the ſimpleſt maxims of right and wrong. Remember always that rude as theſe materials may be, they are ſtill the foundation for the ſuperſtructure of the ſtate, and that by the ſimple proceſs of a more graceful order and poſition, you may render that foundation not only more beautiful, but more ſecure and permanent.

Let it not be imagined, that as a ſtranger affecting faſtidious compariſons from my recollection of ſuperior habits, and better order, and more decent ſubmiſſion to the laws in another land of equal liberty with this, I am diſpoſed to indulge the pitiful preſumption of abaſing the people among whom I now reſide, and as one of whoſe repreſentatives I account it an honour that I am placed here among you. No motives of ſuch illiberal tendency gave birth to thoſe reflections, which in the

the character of their repreſentative, and ſtill more in that of one put in authority under their Governor, I venture to offer upon the lamentable condition of the Iriſh Peaſantry. I conceive very different ideas of their intrinſic value, and am grieved at the long indifference about it; I am grieved that they have been ſuffered to remain as a rich metal in the mine, which no faſhioning hand of an artiſt has hitherto attempted to poliſh into beauty, and upon which no ſtamp of inſtruction has been ſet to give it an acknowledged worth and currency. Nor let it be apprehended that a meaſure ſuch as this has been formed in the deſign, or is calculated to have the effect of depreſſing the ſpirit or ſubduing the fortitude of a people, whoſe manners it would urbanize and whoſe temper it would regulate. No, ſir, it would infuſe divinity into their ſpirit, and make their courage the preſerver of general tranquility. Learning never yet made man degenerate into ſervility, or enfeebled the vigour of his mind, while it ſoftened the feelings of his heart.

" Doctrina ſed vim promovet inſitam,
" Rectique cultus pectora roborant;
" Utcunque defecere mores,
" Dedecorant bene nata culpæ."

All ranks, all deſcriptions of ſociety, are amended and ennobled by the leſſons of virtue; and where morals are defective, the taint of vice corrupts and defiles the Patrician ſtill more than the Peaſant. Where has been the Nation, to which learning has contributed no advantage? What

People

People has not been rendered more formidable by knowledge as auxiliary to their bravery? Has public liberty been injured by underſtanding its true meaning? Has freedom loſt its exertion, becauſe ſociety has learned to comprehend and to obey the law? The braveſt people, whoſe hiſtory we can trace, and who attained the higheſt rank among the nations, mixed with an undaunted courage the love and the cultivation of letters. Even Sparta, which claimed all her ſons as ſoldiers, made their education in learning as well as their diſcipline in arms the public care. No individual parent could idly deprive his children of that inſtruction, which tended to exalt them as men, and improve them as citizens. The community could not afford the ignorance of any of their members, and they aſſerted their rights in that reſpect as ſuperior to thoſe of parental authority. The children were accounted the offſpring of the public, and the nurture of their minds was ſecured by a public proviſion.

The beſt ſupport of courage, Humanity, was by ſuch means allowed to maintain her juſt influence over the actions of man, inſtances of which in days of old as well as of modern date, have reflected not more honour than benefit on mankind. The ſtern and rough frown of war has been ſoftened into ſmiles; the ſtrides of deſolation and ruin have been arreſted "in the very imminent deadly breach." We owe perhaps even at this day to the ſympathetic triumph of learning over the fury of conqueſt, that ſome veſtiges yet

remain

remain of her moſt favourite ſeats, and more than relics of her beſt inſpired diſciples.

" For the Verſe
" Of ſad Electra's Poet had the pow'r
" To ſave th' *Athenian Wall* from Ruin bare."

Take the inſtance of yet another people, ſtill more illuſtrious, and think when we talk of *Romans*, that we ſee them ſpreading their irreſiſtible legions over the kingdoms of the world; but mark their ſetting out, and mark their progreſs well, and ſee, whence they derived the ſources of their valour, and how they doubled the glories of victory. Regard them in their Forum, in their Porticoes, in their Theatres, in their very Baths, and at the hours of repaſt, ſtill making all ſubſervient to the education of their youth, the ſons of warriors, and to give birth to a generation of heroes.—Trace them to other ſcenes, and view them in their country life, and in the cultivation of their lands; ſtill here again the rougheſt labour was encouraged and relieved by the intermixture of inſtruction. Nor was there any fear, or any cauſe to fear, that their ſoil would want their induſtry, or that the plants, they placed in it, would be deprived of their vigilance, becauſe they gave a ſhare of their attention to the culture of their minds, and were occaſionally ſeduced to the ſimple ſtudy of truth and morals. Every object, every occupation, every amuſement, ſupplied materials for obſervation or precept.—The labour of the body and the activity of the

mind were congenial intereſts, and enſured their mutual efficacy. Relaxation from toil yielded not leſs refreſhment, becauſe it was waſted in ſluggiſh apathy. Their riches, it is true, were not great, but poverty was unknown among them.

Follow theſe ruſtic moraliſts "into the tented field," and watch their actions there at the call of their country. They went forth to conqueſt, but not to deſtroy.

"Parcere ſubjectis et debellare ſuperbos."

They did more, they triumphed over the Nation, but the People they ſubdued became more frequently their inſtructors or their ſcholars than their ſlaves. They ſtudied their manners and adopted their arts, where they thought them ſuperior to their own, and they did not ceaſe to impart their own knowledge, or to diffuſe their inſtruction among the tribes, whom they found in ignorance and barbariſm. Theſe were the people who ſought, and theſe were the means which enabled them to ſeek their Conſul at the ploughſhare. Theſe were the means by which the ſons of Rome learned their way to greatneſs, and theſe the ſteps by which they attained the ſummit of it.

Apply theſe maxims and theſe examples as far as they may be neceſſary or applicable to your own people. Blend their zeal for glory with a knowledge and reſpect of virtue.

"Et ſimul Heroum laudes et facta Parentûm
"Jam legere, et quæ ſit poterint cognoſcere virtus."

Give

Give them the means of forming at leaſt an acquaintance with the true renown of heroes; teach them to read the atchievements of their anceſtors; let them thus learn to know, that the true nature and the beſt attributes of Valour are thoſe of Virtue alſo.

Point out to them, moreover, in another view, the origin from which they may, and ought to claim an hereditary title to the united poſſeſſion of commerce and letters. The offspring of Phænician parentage ſhould be taught to emulate the fame of their progenitors, and the deſcendants whether of Mileſian or of Britiſh race, have equally a right to expect diſtinction and ſucceſs by aſſociating the purſuit of War and Navigation, of Trade and Merchandize, with that of Learning and of Arts.---What nation indeed, has arrived at a ſuperiority, not only of power, but of wealth, whoſe people (the nerves and ſinews alike of war and of commerce), have been ſuffered to grovel in idleneſs and ignorance, and to diſtinguiſh no ſentiment, and to exerciſe no energy but in burſts of riot and outrage? How is happineſs or ſecurity to be traced in any community, where the mind is debaſed below the ſuſceptibility of reaſonable enjoyment, and where violence and plunder have moved the ſpirit of charity almoſt to juſtify them, as the only means of preſervation from poverty and famine? Take from your people ſuch piteous pretences for violations of the law, and for infractions of the peace of ſociety; reſcue them from a ſtate of being confounded with the brutes of the foreſt; lift them from the ground by the information of their minds, and elevate them into Men;

teach them the privileges and prerogatives of humanity; make them ſenſible of its dignity and ſuperiority, and inſtruct them above all things, that morals, truth, induſtry, honeſty and peaceableneſs, are the ornaments of it, and bring comfort and bleſſings in their company. There is hardly a man who hears me, whoſe intereſt is not concerned in the relief of the people from ſloth and ignorance. Every circumſtance at this moment conſpires with favourable invitation to the attempt. Your conſtitution ſettled; your commerce enlarged; your internal induſtry encouraged; your laws vindicated; various arts improved; culture ſpreading fertility and beautifying inanimate nature, throughout your country; let not man alone, the nobleſt of your plants, hang his languid and withering branches in deformity of ſo lovely a ſcence. Let cultivation be general, but let it have no earlier or more favourite object than your people. This is to be the ſureſt foundation, not only for your internal improvement, but for the increaſe of your general proſperity. Theſe are to be the means by which your rank and conſideration are to be raiſed into competition with the foremoſt of poliſhed nations.

I am not about to propoſe to you any viſionary or romantic plans. You ſhall ſee them all capable of execution, The firſt object which muſt naturally engage the attention, in bringing the buſineſs forward to this ſtate, is that of expence; and it would have been impoſſible for me to have indulged a confidence in your approbation, if I had not endeavoured to entitle my ſyſtem to your encou-

encouragement, as well upon the principle of œconomy as upon that of general utility. I ſhall not of courſe be ſo far miſconceived, as to have any opinion entertained of my being able to provide the means of ſupport and ſucceſs, for a variety of new or enlarged eſtabliſhments, without any call upon you for additional aid and protection; but I will venture to perſuade myſelf of your aſſent to this propoſition, that the charge I ſhall after all be obliged to ſuggeſt for the public incumbrance, will fall much below an adequate proportion to the benefits which it is intended to purchaſe.

We are in the next place, to conſider an object of no leſs importance, without which it would be vain and idle to prepare any arrangement even of expence, for the ſucceſsful inſtitution of the various ſeminaries, of which this plan is neceſſarily to be compoſed. We muſt ſecure the aſſiſtance of proper adviſers and inſtruments, for the diſpoſition and regulation, as well as the execution of ſuch of the ſeveral ideas, which may be collected from different quarters, upon a meaſure of general concern, as ſhall be thought moſt beneficial and practicable. It will hardly be ſuppoſed that in attempting to ſubmit to your conſideration the reſult of my own reflections, I preſume to reckon upon the excluſive adoption of them, or have the raſh ambition to appear as the ſingle contriver of ſo extenſive a ſcheme; and I therefore take this moment to urge an earneſt ſolicitation for all the auxiliary council and ſupport, which not only the members of this committee, but every wiſe and learned

learned man of the kingdom, may be induced to contribute towards its perfection. Any principles, or propoſitions, which I am enabled to lay before you, can only ſerve, and in truth are only calculated to excite your attention to the ſubject, and will have obtained for their author an abundant gratification, if they ſhall be accepted as a direction to your thoughts, or be allowed to form the baſis of your more correct deciſion. Still however thoſe inſtruments, I have mentioned, will be wanting, and although of the fine poliſhed temper, which are neceſſary for ſuch a work, they may be difficult to find and of coſtly price, they are, I am perſuaded, not entirely out of reach either of diſcovery or of engagement. I am aſſuredly not ſo ſtrangely miſtaken in my eſtimation of their value, and of your public ſpirit, as to have encouraged an ill-founded reliance upon your ſanction to this purchaſe at a liberal amount; and it would be unwarrantable to believe their rarity to be ſuch, as to require an effort of extravagance, which I can hardly in ſuch an inſtance pretend to appreciate.

I have not attempted to enumerate all the objects of advantage or expediency, which may be adduced in general recommendation of the meaſure I propoſe to you. There will be opportunity to mark them in ſtriking characters to your view, as we ſhall proceed through the different diviſions and gradations of the ſyſtem. I have already mentioned to you, that there exiſt ſome outlines of antient ſketching; but they are indeed, now at leaſt, merely outlines. The ſub-

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ſtance and the body of the colouring have never been thrown in, or they are faded and gone. The damp of neglect has ſtruck upon them, and they are milldewed. This has not happened in only one of the pictures, which are to be exhibited to your obſervation, but I am ſorry to ſay, in the greater part of them.

Your pariſh-ſchools, your dioceſan-ſchools, but chiefly your ſchools of richer endowment, have not in general been regarded with the attention they deſerved, and which ought to have been paid to them; but there are too many examples to be traced of more than neglect; of ſhameful perverſion: There could have been but one ſpirit, and one principle, which, in any view to the public good, might be ſuppoſed to have influenced the humane and generous minds of the original founders of theſe inſtitutions. They muſt have cheriſhed the natural and the well merited confidence, that

——— " their bones
" When they had run their courſe, and ſlept in bleſſings,
" Should have a tomb of Orphan's tears wept on them."

But alas! So has not their memory been revered! The voice of infant gratitude has rarely been inſtructed to ſound the name of their benefactor. It has not often met the eye or reached the ear of the parentleſs, or of them who had none to *teach* them. The altars of inſtruction have been robbed of their incenſe, too frequently diſſipated or conſumed by the choſen miniſters, who have ſcarcely deigned to chaunt a ſcanty requiem,

quiem, or have made a farce of the ſervice, which it was enjoined them to perform over the aſhes, and in honour of their patrons. We have only now to hope, that the child may not yet be unborn, who ſhall firſt have its lips inſpired with the leſſons of charity, and whoſe mind ſhall be taught, although ſtill too late, to reſtore the genuine tribute of glory to the author of their inſtruction. It would be a kind of ſacrilege to ſuffer theſe rites to be longer neglected, and in vindicating from abuſe the proviſion which was made for them, you will draw upon yourſelves a ſhare in the bleſſings of an infant generation, who will venerate you as the common founders of their relief and improvement. And you will hereafter experience a ſtill higher reward in the conſequent increaſe of proſperity to your country.

Nothing can be more fruitleſs or prepoſterous than the arrangements at preſent ſubſiſting in ſeveral of the principal features of the ſcheme of education. For as in many inſtances alluded to, the maſter has too large a proviſion, in others he has too little. Both the extremes are almoſt equally pernicious to the only object of their appointment, which ſhould be no other than the diffuſion of knowledge, and the promotion of civilization by the inſtruction of ſcholars. One maſter cannot afford even the attempt to open his ſchool. Another can too well afford to ſhut the doors of it. The public is more intereſted in the reformation of this than of almoſt any object of importance to the community. The interference of government therefore is neceſſary, with the

combined

combined aid of the legiſlature. You muſt have power to enlarge, and you muſt have power to take away. The real education of your children is the grand principle, upon which your deliberations are to proceed; let therefore the reward of the teacher be liberal, but let it be derived in a great degree from the certainty of his own exertions. Emulation ſhould be the general ſpirit of incitement, both among the inſtructors and the ſcholars. Some object of attainment ſhould be contrived to provoke their mutual efforts. A future reward and honourable retreat ſhould be the meed of thoſe who have conſcientiouſly laboured in the performance of a moſt ſevere and trying occupation; and encouragement ſhould be held out to the younger candidates, who are to begin their career in the ſervice of their country.

The ſyſtem, which I would propoſe, ſhould be extended in its benefits to all parts of the community. It ſhould begin with the loweſt ranks of the people, and aſcend in different gradations to the higheſt, and tend to qualify the youth of each order for excellence in the ſtations and purſuits belonging to each. It may do more. It may give to the youth of every claſs an opportunity of bringing out and improving talents, with which nature may have endowed them, fitted to a rank ſuperior to that which fortune had allotted to them. The preſervation no leſs than the immediate encreaſe of learning may thus be enſured by the formation of more able inſtructors to future generations. It muſt be of material conſequences to

eſtabliſh the uniformity and ſteadineſs of ſound diſcipline throughout the whole ſyſtem. The ſafety and ſucceſs of ſuch a meaſure muſt not be put to the hazard of capricious or unconcerted changes and variations. The courſes of ſtudy alſo, and occupation of the children, which ſhould be ſettled with great care and precaution, ought not afterwards to depend for their obſervation upon the arbitrary whim of the different maſters without ſpecial communication and aſſent. No object whatever can be more important, either with a view to the eſtabliſhment or to the maintenance of every proper regulation, and the faithful diſcharge of duty, than a certainty and frequency of impartial viſitation and inſpection.—— The general ſuperintending power of government muſt encourage and enforce the full execution of every truſt in every department. I think it right to declare that this plan is not of courſe deſigned to interfere with the progreſs of many ſchools already eſtabliſhed, or to preclude the inſtitution of others at the will of liberal individuals, who may be diſpoſed to form them; but it may in many inſtances afford an example, worthy of imitation both in the modes of inſtruction, the rules of diſcipline, and the care of inſpection.

After having propoſed to you, for the reaſons which I have aſſigned, the application of this ſyſtem to all ranks of the community, let me indulge a hope, that my ſentiments accord with the diſpoſition of the committee, by recommending a participation of its benefits in general to our fellow-ſubjects of all religious perſuaſions, which are tole-

rated

rated among us. When we reflect, that it is our great object to clear away the mists of ignorance, and to enlighten the understanding for the noblest purposes, of which man is capable by the improved endowments of his mind, let us not exclude from the means of a similar illumination, any description of the people who, by wandering in darkness and ignorance, stumble against the laws, causing confusion and disorder in the state, and pulling down disaster and ruin upon their own heads.—There can be here, I conceive, no question of political reserve in such a case, whilst every principle of liberality and general fraternity should lead us to a different conclusion. We should not do justice to our own conviction of the superiority of our own doctrines, if we retained any dread of raising or improving in those of a contrary communion a capacity to form a just comparison between them. It may, however, be proper that the instructors of the youth should be indispensably of the established religion, and that in some special cases education and support, where they are to be united at the charge of the state, should be confined, as they now are, to children brought up in the tenets of our own church. But in mentioning the probable expediency of this precaution, let me not on the other hand be misunderstood to force an obligation upon other sects to seek their only means of education under our preceptors. Let our schools be accessible to them, but make not their attendance thither compulsory. Hold out to them, as an invitation in general, the excellence of the opportunity, and let the induce-

ment to acceptance be that of ſecurity againſt interference with their religious principles. The legiſlature thinks it wiſe and neceſſary to make diſtinctions for political purpoſes or purpoſes of ſtate, but we need make none in the public facility of imbibing inſtruction with the general principles of morality, induſtry, truth, honeſty and decorum, which it muſt be the intereſt, and indeed a part of the policy alſo of every well regulated ſtate, to diſſeminate and cheriſh as much as poſſible among all the component parts of its ſociety.

I am now, Sir, with permiſſion of the committee, to proceed to a more minute explanation of the ſeveral diviſions of the general plan, which I mean to ſubmit to your conſideration. But before I enter into this detail, I would ſay a very few words in excuſe of the long introduction with which I have troubled you. I venture to perſuade myſelf, that you will not have thought it irrelevant to the purpoſes of my plan to bring before your view the ſituation of the people, and to make the honourable attempt of moving the pride and intereſt, as well as the feelings of the country, to their relief and improvement; to manifeſt the general dearth and want of proper inſtruction, and to point out the fatal conſequences of them, not only to the individuals, but to the maſs of the nation, and to the ſtate itſelf; and above all to exhibit, in proofs of reaſon and illuſtration, the ſuperior advantages which would be likely to reſult from a general reformation, and the eſtabliſhment of a general ſyſtem: I ſhall ſeek to compenſate your kind indulgence and attention, by as much brevity

vity in what remains for me to ſay, as may be conſiſtent with a due perſpicuity.

I have already opened to you ſo much of my ideas reſpecting a general ſyſtem, as to ſuggeſt the expediency of its being adapted to all the different ranks and gradations of the people in the community. Theſe I would divide into four parts, as far as relates to ſcholaſtic education. The two firſt of them ſhould embrace the people in the loweſt degree, and in the degree next above it; both of which I ſhould thereby hope to lead forward to the chance of an advanced gradation.

The third ſhould take in the middling ranks of the community, and afford the means, at an eaſy expence, of a liberal claſſic education to perſons deſigned for various ſpecies of learned profeſſions, and to the gentry of the neighbourhood, who would not chooſe or could not afford to ſend their children to ſchools of a more diſtant ſituation and higher expence.

The fourth is to ſupply the richeſt reſource of the moſt poliſhed erudition to the youth of high rank and nobleſt ambition, whoſe object and fair pretenſions it may be to attempt the firſt lines of profeſſional diſtinction, and the higheſt offices and employments of the ſtate.

I mean to ſay ſomething in a fifth part, of the further ſtep towards perfection, by the removal of ſcholars to the univerſity, and their inſtruction there.

In a ſixth, I would ſuggeſt the means by which theſe beneficial openings for general knowledge and erudition may be preſerved pure and incor-

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rupt; and the great principle of ſound and uniform diſcipline, and the general incentive to emulation, by ſecuring ſtill the preference and diſtinction of merit, both in reſpect to honour and intereſt, may be maintained with unabating vigour.

The ſeventh and laſt will regard only the future ſteps which ſhould be taken to lead to your ultimate ſanction, and the means of information on which you may be enabled to fix it.

The firſt object, then, which preſents itſelf to notice, in ſurveying the different diviſions of this ſyſtem, is the ſcheme by which the loweſt and moſt numerous order of the community have within their reach ſuch moderate advantages of inſtruction and precept as may make them at once more happy and more uſeful members of the ſociety. This object has in ſome degree already heretofore engaged the attention of the legiſlature by an act, which is ſtill in force and obſervance, although the proviſions of it do not go to form a ſufficient eſtabliſhment in theſe days; nor is the nature of the obligation under it ſuch as in itſelf to ſecure the gratuitous communication of inſtruction to the poor, which I would wiſh to recommend in the ſtrongeſt manner. If we look back for a moment to the hiſtory of the times, in which the act alluded to (28 Henry VIII. c. 15.) was made, and conſider the real motives of it, we ſhall find that there was ſomething of policy as well as of charity in the inſtitution of pariſh-ſchools under that reign; a policy, however, of moſt excellent tendency, and worthy of being perpetuated.

petuated. The more general knowledge and uſe of the Engliſh language were certainly then, if not the ſole, at leaſt the principal objects of parliamentary concern, in directing the introduction of theſe ſchools; and it is to be further obſerved, that although the miniſter of the pariſh was obliged to teach ſuch children as preſented themſelves, or to ſubſtitute a proper inſtructor, allowance was given to take a certain ſmall ſtipend from the ſcholars for their tuition. When I mention the Engliſh language to have been the only object of inſtruction in theſe ſchools, I do not mean to repreſent them in a more humble point of view on that account; but it will, on the contrary, be recollected, that great pains and alſo ſkill muſt have been required of a maſter who was capable of teaching, in effect, the knowledge and uſe of a dead language; for it was at that time as much unknown to the people as thoſe of the antients. And therefore we ſhould form an inadequate idea of thoſe inſtitutions, if we compared them immediately with our preſent notion or acquaintance of pariſh-ſchools, wherein that which is called reading Engliſh is, I fear, little more than the articulation of certain ſounds perfectly unincumbered with any regard to meaning. Whatever might have been either the object of inſtruction, or the execution of it in thoſe days, and however competent the proviſion might then have been for the purpoſe, it is certain that neither the plan or the proviſion are efficient at preſent. Many reaſons, which it is not neceſſary to enumerate, have probably by degrees contributed to the failure, and

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at laſt to the almoſt total diſregard of theſe eſtabliſhments. I do not mean to inſinuate that the parochial miniſter, who, by his oath of induction and inſtitution to his living, is bound to keep a ſchool, or cauſe it to be kept in his pariſh, does not perform his compact in the uſual way, which is by an allowance of 40*s.* to a maſter, who with that encouragement is generally turned among the pariſhioners to try his chance of obtaining a livelihood by getting ſcholars. We are all aware of the obſtacles to his ſucceſs, and cannot indeed but be ſenſible of the radical defect which muſt ariſe from theſe circumſtances, and prove fatal in moſt caſes to this whole ſcheme of inſtruction. The difficulty becomes almoſt inſuperable of finding a ſchool-maſter, who is not only *qualified* to undertake the charge, but who will *venture* to undertake it. Blame is not therefore perhaps ſtrictly imputable to the parochial clergy for the failure of the plan within their ſeveral diſtricts; and yet it cannot be ſaid, in judging from the returns made to the Houſe of Commons, that there is appearance of any great attention having been generally paid to the proſecution or ſucceſs of it. I have no purpoſe of exact inveſtigation into all the cauſes which may have had an influence in defeating a meaſure of real importance; I would rather engage your attention to the remedy, as nobody will diſpute with me the truth and force of this poſition, that we cannot be engaged in a work of greater utility to the public, than in the attempt to form and regulate theſe ſchools in ſuch a manner as to make them the effectual means of informing the minds, and reforming

forming the manners of the lower orders of the people. There is no deſcription of men in the community, who are not intereſted in the promotion of this meaſure, but it ſeems in a particular degree to call for the notice and regard of that order, to which the care of them was originally enjoined as a ſpecial duty. The reaſons are innumerable and obvious, which ſhould operate on their minds, and ſhould alſo engage the zealous attention and ſuperintendence of the epiſcopacy, as an object well adapted in every reſpect to the diſcharge of their ſacred functions, and eſpecially in this country.

It is certainly neceſſary to begin our proceedings by forming new regulations, for the correction of thoſe defects, whoſe operation is deſtructive of the firſt ingredients in the compoſition of the ſyſtem. It is evident that the proviſion which is made at preſent for the ſchool-maſters, is not an adequate inducement to a man of ſufficient qualifications for ſuch an employment; and in recommending a fund therefore to be provided for the gratuitous inſtruction of a certain number of children in each pariſh, I muſt of courſe be ſuppoſed to repreſent the neceſſity of a decent maintenance and protection to the ſchool-maſter. He ſhould be choſen with ſerious care in reſpect to morals and propriety of conduct, and ſhould not only be competent to impart the ordinary objects of inſtruction, ſuch as reading, writing and common arithmetic, but to inculcate alſo by plain and ſimple method the firſt principles of honeſty, truth and induſtry. It may not be an unwiſe

regulation to ſecure and encourage the exertions of the maſter, that even in providing a fixed ſalary for him, a part of it, or an addition to it ſhould be paid to him with each ſcholar, whom he ſhall be directed to teach.

Theſe conſiderations muſt naturally lead us to an arrangement of the means for eſtabliſhing the neceſſary fund; and I would in the firſt place look for a contribution towards it, in the original compoſition of theſe inſtitutions, and ſeek to make ſuch reaſonable addition to it from other ſources, as may anſwer the more enlarged purpoſes to which we extend our view in the reformation of them.——The charge was originally laid by an uniform and excluſive impoſition upon the beneficed clergy without diſtinction; but beſides that, I think it juſt to introduce other perſons for a ſhare in the ſupport of an object of ſuch general concern; I would alſo ſuggeſt the propriety of a new rate or proportion, according to which the original contributors ſhould furniſh their aid. I have no idea in this propoſition, of eſtabliſhing a burthenſome tax upon this or any other deſcription of perſons; but I deem this meaſure to be within certain bounds, in every reſpect a juſt as well as wiſe arrangement. The adoption of it muſt depend upon your own more mature deliberation; but I ſhall venture at preſent to throw out the general rule, according to which I have in my own mind conceived the expediency of a more general contribution and a different apportionment of it.

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The parochial clergy being now ſuppoſed indiſcriminately to provide a ſchool-maſter, by an allowance of 40*s.* per annum, I would take that ſum as the loweſt rate of contribution, and fix it upon all livings of 100*l.* a year, and from thence to 150*l.* The firſt increaſe ſhould be in a lower proportion than the reſt, and therefore I would propoſe that all livings from that value to 200*l.* per annum, ſhould pay 3*l.* It could not be conſidered, I imagine, in any degree oppreſſive, if we ſhould expect from all livings above 200*l.* per annum, an annual increaſe by a ſort of poundage on the exceſs, perhaps ſix-pence in the pound. It has then occurred to me, that there are very forcible and obvious arguments drawn from the time and the nature of the original inſtitution, in favour of my next idea, which leads me to propoſe a ſimilar contribution, and perhaps in like proportion from the proprietors of rectorial and impropriate tithes. It would almoſt ſeem a reflection upon other deſcriptions of the more wealthy inhabitants or proprietors within the pariſh, if I did not recommend them alſo to be made contributors towards the improvement of that object, in which all muſt be intereſted, and which could not otherwiſe be within the reach of their poorer fellow-pariſhioners. A ſpecial ſum might be eaſily aſcertained and properly apportioned by the veſtry, according to their knowledge of the poſſeſſions within their diſtrict. A very ſmall, and indeed, almoſt imperceptible charge upon theſe different orders of men would, I truſt, at leaſt anſwer the purpoſe of providing

for the firſt object, to which I would make the fund applicable, of a reaſonable ſtipend for a well qualified ſchool-maſter; and if by theſe reſources, or by others of charitable aid and benefaction, (to which I am inclined to look forward with a ſanguine confidence) a ſum beyond the neceſſary amount of ſuch ſalary ſhould be ſupplied, the ſurplus might be well employed in promoting one great principle of this, and of every other part of the ſyſtem, namely, the encouragement and reward of emulation and merit. There might in certain caſes be given to ſuch of the children, as ſhould by their behaviour and diligence deſerve a diſtinction, a preſent of clothes, or perhaps a proviſion of diet, and alſo of fees upon their apprenticeſhip. I have perſuaded myſelf to believe, that even in ſuch humble ſeminaries, genius and merit may be ſucceſsfully rewarded, and I am alſo of opinion, that theſe rewards for good behaviour may be made a uſeful meaſure of puniſhment for an alteration in conduct. If a particular dreſs ſhould be made the mark of merit, it would be a heavy diſgrace and mortification to be afterwards deprived of it. If a particular table ſhould be eſtabliſhed for the gratuitous repaſt of meritorious children, there would probably be ſtrenuous efforts continued on their part to avoid being degraded from it. Pride and intereſt might thus conſpire to create and ſupport emulation, which would ſpeedily produce other excellent effects.

We are to be aware, that in ſome caſes, a greater number of children may poſſibly preſent themſelves

ſelves for inſtruction, than the one maſter ſhould inſtruct gratis, or can teach properly. Aſſiſtants will then be neceſſary, who ſhould be paid by the parents of ſuch children as were not of the gratuitous liſt, to which they ſhould ſucceed according to ſome eſtabliſhed order; and herein alſo, if poſſible, diſtinction ſhould be paid to merit. I have mentioned how far it ſeems proper to charge the pariſhes with contribution, and in what manner the fund ariſing from it ſhould be diſpoſed of for the ſupport of the inſtructors of their children, and if it may be for the partial ſupport and inſtruction of the children themſelves. There is however, another object, for which we ſhould not omit to make proviſion, as I conceive it to be of great conſequence towards facilitating the ſucceſs, on every account, of theſe little ſeminaries. Inducement of a comfortable reſidence muſt have conſiderable influence on the mind of a ſchool-maſter to undertake that employment, and indeed it ſeems to be a meaſure of abſolute neceſſity, becauſe among other obſtacles at preſent exiſting againſt the progreſs of theſe inſtitutions, the difficulty of obtaining a proper reſidence is one of moſt ſerious effect. It appears from the returns upon the table, that in ſome inſtances, it has been impoſſible to procure a lodging for the ſchool-maſter. The remedy of this miſchief I conſider to be moſt properly an object of the public concern, and I would therefore propoſe, that a Parliamentary aid ſhould be granted annually towards the accompliſhment of it. There might thus by degrees in every pariſh be built

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or purchaſed or otherwiſe provided, a decent habitation for the maſter, with ſuitable accommodations for the ſcholars, and the addition of a ſmall quantity of ground for garden or other convenience. This object ſhould be effectuated upon as ſimple and œconomical a plan as poſſible. I ſhould perhaps not venture to propoſe, that this aid ſhould exceed 3000*l.* annually, but I conceive, that if you ſhould be diſpoſed to increaſe it to 5000*l.* per annum, the burthen upon the public could not be thought very conſiderable, or that the object would not well juſtify it. I would here ſuggeſt another idea, by which an additional and, I imagine, a fair contribution might be obtained towards the earlier execution of this object. The funds of a charity left by Eraſmus Smith, for the inſtitution and ſupport of ſchools, appear to me, upon conſideration of his own deſign, to be properly applicable to thoſe of this deſcription; and I would therefore ſubmit to your conſideration, whether it would not be expedient to ſet apart ſome of them, or probably the whole unapplied ſurplus towards this purpoſe. I underſtand that at preſent this ſurplus would not be found productive from accidental circumſtances, which have called upon the governors for extraordinary expence, but it might become ſo in the courſe of a few years. It will be neceſſary to eſtabliſh ſome rule for preference of particular pariſhes in the ſeveral dioceſes, as to the order in which this bounty ſhould be extended to them: No better ſuggeſts itſelf to me, than that reports made from time to time by

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the Biſhops, ſhould have the approbation of the Lord Lieutenant. It muſt be incumbent upon the pariſh to keep theſe houſes in repair.

I have thought it right to ſtate to you the ſure means, by which at all events theſe eſſential purpoſes might be provided for; but here again I muſt repeat my confidence in the generoſity and public ſpirit of the gentlemen of Ireland, that they will not ſuffer in all caſes the public proviſion to have the ſtart of their beneficence in accompliſhing a plan, which muſt intereſt their conſideration as men of property, and having a ſtake in the country, and affect their feelings as compaſſionate witneſſes of the ſad effects of ignorance and diſſoluteneſs among the poorer inhabitants of their neighbourhood. I truſt therefore, that in very many caſes a ſmall portion of ground will be contributed, and in many alſo a comfortable habitation may be ſupplied by private benefactors. Whatever ſurplus or whatever fund may remain by the continuance of all theſe proviſions, after the full application of them to their immediate purpoſes, may be moſt beneficially beſtowed in augmenting the facilities of inſtruction and ſupport to the infant poor of both ſexes. I have in another part remarked what you will, I ſuppoſe, deem indiſpenſable, that the maſters of theſe ſchools ſhould be of the eſtabliſhed religion; but I venture alſo to perſuade myſelf, that I am juſtified in believing, that you would open admiſſion to them to children of other religious perſuaſions.

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The objects of inſtruction only, I doubt, can hardly be extended beyond thoſe of reading, writing and common arithmetic, but I ſhould hope that in teaching the children to read, it ſhould be an eſſential part of the maſter's duty to engage their underſtanding, as well as their tongues in the performance of their leſſons :— This will be the more neceſſary, in order to enable him with ſucceſs to imprint upon their minds thoſe ſimple precepts of moral and civil duty, which he ſhould take all occaſions to adminiſter, and the practice of which he ſhould be moſt exact and reſolute to enforce. It is not my purpoſe here to enter into a detail of internal regulation in reſpect to hours of attendance or diſpoſal of time in and out of ſchool; it may not however be improper, to hint the advantage of a ſuitable employment of Sundays, to the children of the eſtabliſhed religion, in books of devotion, catechiſm, &c. &c. And that on this day, perhaps, the ſchool might be opened to other children, who in the courſe of the week, are neceſſarily engaged in manual labour or other occupation.— The age at which children might be admitted to theſe ſchools, and the time of their continuance will require your conſideration. Perhaps you will be diſpoſed to approve of their admiſſion at the age of five or ſix, and of their continuance for ſix years.

It would after all be in vain to make proviſions, and to form regulations for the better eſtabliſhment and direction of theſe ſeminaries, if you did not alſo give your ſpecial attention to an indiſpen-

indiſpenſable arrangement of proper viſitation and inſpection, by which the faithful execution of every truſt, and the conſcientious diſcharge of every duty may be encouraged, enforced, and rewarded. It is the peculiar province of the miniſter of the pariſh, or in his abſence of the curate, to be attentive to the conduct of the maſters, and the good order and ſucceſs of the ſchools in every reſpect. The church-wardens ſhould alſo be induced to pay frequent viſits to them, and inform themſelves thoroughly of attendance, cleanlineſs, and other ſimilar circumſtances. Frequent reports ſhould be made to the Biſhop, and a proper regiſtry be kept of eſſential points. His own viſitation or that of his immediate officers, ſhould be attended with ſtrict and ſerious enquiry into the ſtate and management of the ſchool in every reſpect. The magiſtrates, if any reſiding in the pariſh, might be ſolicited occaſionally to enquire about and enforce punctuality. Perhaps it might not be incompatible with the time and buſineſs of the judges on their circuits, for them to receive well authenticated returns of all theſe matters, and to make report to the Lord Lieutenant of their information, with their remarks. The magiſtrates alſo at Quarter Seſſions might be uſeful in attention to theſe objects; but in order ſtill more effectually to ſecure a vigilant and exact ſuperintendence and inſpection of theſe eſtabliſhments, it has occurred to me, that the government of Eraſmus Smith's charity for Engliſh Schools, and the Incorporated Society for Proteſtant char-

ter ſchools might now be blended together, and form one body for the care under the Lord Lieutenant, of all Engliſh pariſh and charity ſchools, ſupported or aided by public money. Special Provincial Viſitors or Inſpectors, under their direction, ſhould be annually appointed, with a proper allowance for the trouble of making an annual circuit, to examine and inſpect every ſchool of the above deſcription throughout the kingdom, and to make their reports to this corporation, who ſhould lay them before the Lord Lieutenant, and alſo copies of them, if thought adviſeable, before both Houſes of Parliament.

I ſhould conceive that the number of pariſhes or unions, according to the beſt computation I have been enabled to make, in which theſe eſtabliſhments may be uſefully formed, amount to about nine hundred; but it is neceſſary upon this ſubject, for me to remark to you, that in many of theſe pariſhes, particularly within great towns or cities, there are already ſufficient accommodations and conveniencies for the ſchool-maſters and children, and that in ſuch of courſe it will not be requiſite to incur the expence of providing theſe arrangements. It will naturally occur to you, that it is impoſſible to lay down here any preciſe rule for the exact number of ſchools, which from theſe data, it may be found adviſeable to inſtitute throughout the kingdom. The ſize and circumſtances of ſome pariſhes may require and furniſh ample proviſion for more than one ſchool, whilſt others, on the contrary, may

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perhaps ſtand in need of union to give any chance of ſucceſs to one. Theſe are matters which muſt be hereafter determined, and can indeed only in proceſs of time be aſcertained by the conſideration of expediency or of a ſuitable proviſion. The numbers can always be augmented according to the encreaſed population or the proper demand of the diſtricts.

I here conclude the firſt diviſion of the ſyſtem.

I now proceed to the conſideration of another part of the general ſyſtem, which I flatter myſelf may be made of at leaſt as great utility to a claſs of the people not ſo numerous as the former, but perhaps the moſt intereſting to the community at large. The object of it is to educate, in a certain number of Provincial Schools, an uſeful order of citizens in different gradations, for the exerciſe of various occupations in ſeveral lines of active buſineſs. This idea can hardly be ſaid to be founded on the model of any preſent eſtabliſhment in this kingdom, although ſomething of the kind upon an inferior footing may be traced in the Blue-coat Hoſpital of Dublin. But theſe ſchools are intended in fact to become by degrees an improved ſubſtitution for the preſent charter-ſchools. And the excellent inſtitution of Chriſt Hoſpital in London, ſuggeſted to me the general principles of the propoſed foundations.

I cannot be too early in making my poſitive declarations, that the gradual change I would recommend does not ariſe from any imputation

of neglect in the Incorporated Society with reſpect to the ſucceſs of the preſent ſeminaries. But they cannot, from the nature of them, ſo ſcattered in ſituation, ſo liable to eſcape notice and proper obſervation, and ſo limited in their objects, produce the advantages, of which a more decided ſyſtem of higher aim might be rendered capable. Whatever opinion therefore may be formed of this part of my plan, I truſt, that I ſhall have indulgence for the true motives of the anxiety, which I confeſs myſelf to feel for the ſucceſsful adoption of it, as I am wholly perſuaded of its being calculated to improve the ſources of credit and proſperity to this country. It is with this view, that in conſidering all the variety of benefits, which may be derived to it from a general ſyſtem of education, I have indulged and purſued the idea, firſt *of an early formation of the national manners, and at preſent of a juſt direction to national induſtry and ingenuity.* I ſhould hope therefore that the ſociety incorporated upon ſimilar principles for the care of Proteſtant charter-ſchools, will have not only no objections to the alterations I would introduce, but will have pleaſure in giving their aſſiſtance to the ſucceſs of a project for extending the bleſſings, which they are now engaged in diſpenſing, to objects of ſtill greater uſe and importance to ſociety and to the country. The union of this ſociety with the Governors of Eraſmus Smith's charity, for the purpoſes I have already mentioned, would, I am confident, with proper powers, regulations, and inſtructions, render the

higheſt ſervices to the country, by watching over theſe important objects, and leading into their full exerciſe and effect the liberal deſigns and proviſions of the legiſlature. I venture to predict the moſt happy conſequences from this meaſure immediately in contemplation, of giving ſuperior advantages of information and proficiency to youth, brought up in the eſtabliſhed religion, who, either in the lower orders or in the middling ranks of the community, might become well qualified for the exerciſe of active occupations of different kinds, if they were not without the means of obtaining inſtruction and protection in the early ſtudy of them. This can only be effected by taking a certain number of children upon proper recommendation, and educating and ſupporting them as the children of the public, for the attainment of knowledge and ſkill in uſeful arts or ſcience. In the execution of ſuch a plan, the principal object would be to diſcover and cultivate the particular bias of the youthful mind to any one purſuit or occupation in preference to another; and, having firſt well eſtabliſhed the general foundation of reading, writing, Engliſh grammar, and arithmetic, to engage the attention in thoſe ſtudies which lead moſt directly to the acquiſition of ſuperior qualifications for future practice. Being therefore entirely ſatisfied of the ſuperior advantages which would reſult to the public, from a perfect eſtabliſhment of this ſort, over the weak and inefficient ſtruggles of the charter-ſchools, I cannot heſitate to recommend the gradual change of them

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from their preſent form, and a gradual application of their funds with many of their principles, to ſettle four provincial ſchools upon a plan of which I will endeavour to give you a ſhort ſketch with as much perſpicuity as I can. All the uſeful purpoſes of thoſe charitable foundations ſhould be adopted and interwoven into this ſcheme; and it may be proper to obſerve, that as the accompliſhment of it can only be gradual, opportunity will be given in every ſtage of the progreſs, to form a juſt eſtimation and compariſon of the excellence and ſucceſs of the new ſyſtem with the remaining parts of the original. It is not neceſſary for me to add, that if I ſhall be found to be miſtaken in my conceptions, the miſchief will not be ſuffered to extend itſelf far or to have long continuance. If, on the contrary, my ideas as well as my hopes ſhall prove to have been well founded, the national benefit will be increaſed and put upon a higher ſcale by this reformation, and almoſt a new order of citizens will be given to the ſtate, in the ſuperior exerciſe of the moſt uſeful occupations in huſbandry, trade, manufacture, commerce and arts.

I propoſe therefore, to form the inſtitution of four ſchools, or hoſpitals, or academies: One of them in each of the provinces of this kingdom.

In each of theſe ſchools a certain number of children ſhall be gratuitouſly lodged, boarded, cloathed and inſtructed in thoſe ſtudies, which may be moſt ſuitable to their purſuit of ſuch future occupation, as may be the object of their choice,

choice, or of their particular talents and abilities. Theſe academies are deſigned to form and to ſend into active employment, beſides thoſe who can be engaged only in manual labour or ſubordinate ſtations of life, Mariners, Merchants, Tradeſmen, Manufacturers, Artificers, Farmers, Surveyors, Architects, and others of a like nature: And therefore Navigation, Mercantile Knowledge, Modern Languages in moſt uſe, Trade, Manufactures, Mathematics, Geometry, Architecture, Drawing, Huſbandry and Agriculture in all their branches, muſt be here the objects of inſtruction and ſtudy. Should his Majeſty graciouſly deign to become the patron of theſe inſtitutions, and as his Majeſty's repreſentative, the Lord Lieutenant, the united incorporation ſhould be the acting guardians and governors, with a preſident, whoſe province and powers will of courſe be properly defined and ſettled. The rules for the nomination and admiſſion of children muſt be aſcertained in the ſtatutes; the period of their admiſſion may perhaps be properly fixed at that of between ſeven years of age and ten, and their continuance be limited, except in very particular caſes, to the age of ſixteen years. The children ſhould be indiſpenſably brought up in the eſtabliſhed religion. I have before intimated, that I ſhould recommend the diviſion into two unequal parts. The numbers of children in the firſt, to be about one-third of that in the other; many conveniencies and advantages might ariſe from this regulation, and particularly by the means it would afford of encou-

couraging emulation and competition. In the firſt diviſion, I would reckon thoſe who ſhould be received upon the ſpecial recommendation of certain privileged perſons: In the ſecond, I place thoſe now admiſſible according to the methods at preſent practiſed in the charter ſchools. The children of the firſt deſcription to be the offſpring indifferently of either proteſtant or catholic parents. Thoſe of the ſecond, to be excluſively born of catholic parents and objects of charity. The parents of them all ſhall be exempt from any expence whatever, but they ſhall have no right of interference about their children, after the introduction of them into the hoſpital: A diſcretion however, may be ſafely veſted in the principal of the Society, to conſult the parents, if he ſhall think fit, about any material ſtep to be reſolved upon for the future deſtination of their children. The diviſional parts of the eſtabliſhment, although within the ſame confines, may be diſpoſed in ſeparate ſituations, with diſtinct proviſion and arrangement for inſtruction, diet, cloathing and lodging; the principal officers of the eſtabliſhment would ſuperintend the whole, and enforce the due execution of duties entruſted to maſters and others in each department. The diet, cloathing and other proviſion, ſhould be uniform to thoſe in each diviſion, and no diſtinction made except with a view of encouraging and rewarding emulation and merit.

There ſhould be appointed one principal or reſident guardian of the whole ſociety, to ſuperintend and direct all the œconomy and order of every

every branch of the eſtabliſhment; he ſhould alſo be the treaſurer.

One head maſter ſhould be placed over the whole department of inſtruction, and it ſhould be his particular charge to enforce the attention of the ſeveral aſſiſtants or under maſters in all the claſſes, and himſelf to make conſtant examinations of the children in each reſpectively, but without any ſettled rotation; under maſters muſt be appointed for each claſs, with ſuch aſſiſtants as may be requiſite.

Theſe claſſes would in effect, be each of them diſtinct ſchools, and be diſtinguiſhed by that appellation, as ſchool of mathematics, ſchool of agriculture, &c. &c. I will not enter here into any detail of the arrangement of buſineſs and inſtruction to the ſeveral claſſes or diviſions; they muſt be ſettled hereafter upon mature conſideration. I would only obſerve, that reading, writing, Engliſh grammar and arithmetic, not only muſt be the ſole occupation of children in the loweſt claſs, but ſhould alſo be occaſionally attended to by thoſe in the higheſt. From theſe lower they will, at a proper age, be placed in one of the diſtinct claſſes of higher degree for the perfection of their education, according to the purſuit or occupation in which they may be deſtined by choice or talents to be afterwards engaged. Theſe higheſt claſſes will be reſerved for the boys of the firſt diviſion, except in caſes where the peculiar merit and promiſing talents, may induce the principal and head maſter to bring up any children from the ſecond diviſion into them.—

There ſhould alſo perhaps, be a diſtinction between thoſe diviſions, in regard to the time of the childrens continuance on the eſtabliſhment. Thoſe who are deſigned only for inferior occupations will not require a courſe of ſtudy ſo long and ſo perfect as that of the firſt claſſes, into which they will not enter. They may probably be removed with advantage to employment or apprenticeſhip at the age of twelve or thirteen years, by which means the larger ſucceſſion may be cauſed.

Boys are educated at Chriſt's Hoſpital for the univerſity, and there are two ſchools there for the purpoſe of inſtruction in the learned languages. I ſhould doubt about the propriety of carrying this part of that plan into effect here, where other objects are to be proſecuted with ſo much ſuperior incentives. It is certainly not my deſign to propoſe any thing of that kind; but I would ſtrongly recommend an attention beyond what is uſually given to the ſtudy of our own language. Engliſh grammar and Engliſh compoſition of all ſorts, and Engliſh declamation ſhould be moſt favourite exerciſes for the children, and they ſhould receive the greateſt encouragement to acquire a proficiency and excellence in them. It would by ſuch means be eaſy to diſcover a prevailing talent or diſpoſition for literary ſtudies over any other purſuit, and it would not be difficult to contrive a reſource for the occaſional and advantageous removal of a few boys, who ſhould be found to poſſeſs them in an eminent degree to a claſſical ſchool: This would be an arrangement

ment congenial to the ſpirit of ſelection, which it has been wiſhed to diffuſe through every part of the ſyſtem; and I am perſuaded that no objection ought to be made to it upon any idea, that too much time and aſſiduity would be devoted to a thorough foundation of a knowledge in our native language; or that an attention to what are called the learned languages, would thereby be delayed to a more advanced age than uſual; becauſe there is good reaſon to ſuppoſe, that the more rapid as well as efficient progreſs afterwards in Latin and Greek, might bring the period of claſſical education within the uſual compaſs. I ſhould not omit to obſerve, that in ſpeaking with a decided partiality in favour of the cultivation of our own language, I do not mean, even in theſe ſeminaries, to confine the inſtruction of the children to it alone. The great object of qualifying young perſons for various employments, eſpecially in navigation and commerce, would not be completely anſwered without their attainment of ſome knowledge and facility in the modern languages of moſt uſe for foreign intercourſe and traffick. Opportunity ſhould conſequently be provided for acquiring information in the French, German, and perhaps Spaniſh and Portugueſe tongues.

In regard to the ſtudy of the different ſciences, which are recommended, it will, I am confident, appear to you to be right, that we ſhould provide not only for inſtruction in the theory of them, but in practice and experiment alſo.——Proper ſpace, therefore, and apparatus,

and practical aſſiſtance, ſhould be gradually prepared for the execution of this eſſential object.

I confeſs my own idea of the public utility of theſe inſtitutions, over almoſt any of what kind ſoever, to be ſuch, that with a ſincere zeal for the national welfare, I would urge you to begin the eſtabliſhment of at leaſt one of them upon the moſt liberal ſcale. I can hardly conceive an advantage of a ſuperior nature, for which an endowment could be made; and under that impreſſion I have caſt my view around the country to diſcover any means or materials deſigned for public benefit, which are not at preſent ſo employed, and I will not heſitate to mention to you one conſiderable object which appears to me to be well calculated for beneficial appropriation to this purpoſe. The buildings raiſed at New Geneva, and at preſent without inhabitants, ſeem to invite a ſettlement of this kind to them. I would venture to recommend, that the commencement of this plan ſhould be made there, if his Majeſty will be graciouſly pleaſed to give his royal permiſſion to convert the place and profits of the lands to this uſe. I am not at preſent prepared to go farther, than to offer ſuggeſtions to your conſideration, and therefore I do not at preſent propoſe to you an humble addreſs to his Majeſty upon that ſubject; but I ſhall be happy to find that the idea may be acceptable to you; and we have every reaſon to be gratefully confident, from a conſtant proof of his Majeſty's paternal goodneſs to his ſubjects of this kingdom,

dom, that his Majeſty will deign to favour with moſt gracious indulgence, every proper effort for the improvement of their happineſs and welfare. The circumſtances of this place are ſuch, that it might eaſily be made capable of affording very ſuitable accommodation to this infant colony, and there happens to be ſuch a diſpoſition of the buildings, that, with the addition of a very few for the more general meetings of the children on various occaſions, a ſufficient number might not only be received there, but arranged in their diſtinct diviſions, and even claſſes without any inconvenient interference or communication. An encloſure of ſufficient ſpace might ſurround the neceſſary circuit of buildings and grounds, with ſuch arrangements of the parts as might beſt anſwer the purpoſes of practice and exerciſe, as well as of ſtudy. This might thus be made one of the nobleſt and moſt uſeful inſtitutions of the kind in the world. Almoſt every occupation of a people, buſied in huſbandry, trade, manufacture, commerce and arts might be here improved, by the methods uſed in educating youth, to the knowledge and exerciſe of them. There ſhould not be only a proper diſtribution of ſpace, but a careful arrangement of duties alſo, ſo that, eſpecially in the ſeveral kinds of inſtruction, there may be no embarraſſment from the encroachment of one maſter upon the hours and buſineſs of another, and that every ſucceeding object of it may be attended by the children at the allotted time with great punctuality.

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I would here take a ſhort review of the propoſed eſtabliſhment, and of its ſeveral diviſions, with ſome general calculation of the probable expence, and of the funds at preſent exiſting, which may be applied to this purpoſe, and of thoſe which muſt be ſupplied by parliamentary aid or other ways and means.

I have mentioned one principal or reſident guardian of this ſociety, one head-maſter alſo.—The number of under-maſters and aſſiſtants muſt depend upon the diviſions of ſcholars and the number of children, which it may be propoſed to educate in them. I conceive that the whole eſtabliſhment may conſiſt of eight or nine hundred, divided, as I have before obſerved, into two parts; the former of which might be about three hundred and twenty. I take that number upon the idea of arranging them into eight wards, for their lodging, of forty each. For theſe there may be allotted ſeven ſchools, which, I apprehend, will be a ſufficient number to give ample opportunity for inſtruction in the ſeveral branches of learning and ſcience, which I have already mentioned, and which I would arrange in this manner:

1ſt. Reading and Grammar, ſeveral diviſions.
2d. Writing and Accounts, do. do.
3d. Mathematics and Navigation, with apparatus, &c. &c. and ſpace for Experiments.
4th. Huſbandry and Agriculture, with do.

5th. Mecha-

5th. Mechanics, Geometry, and Manufacture, with do.
6th. Drawing, &c. &c.
7th. Foreign Languages and Geography.

There muſt of courſe be ſeven maſters for theſe, and ſome of them will require aſſiſtants, eſpecially the reading or grammar ſchools, and that for writing and accounts. The ſecond diviſion will conſiſt of either four hundred and eighty or five hundred and eighty, according to what may be determined of the groſs number. I ſhould imagine that for theſe, four ſchools might be ſufficient; a reading and a writing ſchool, each of them conſiſting of ſeveral diviſions, and two working ſchools for their inſtruction in different kinds of handicraft or other inferior occupations. There will of courſe be four maſters wanting for theſe ſchools, and ſeveral aſſiſtants. It is to be remembered that the principal will ſuperintend the management of the whole, and the head-maſter will overlook the department of inſtruction in this diviſion, as well as the other.——— And I would here repeat a former remark in favour of this eſtabliſhment, for the reception of ſuch children as are at preſent diſtributed in the ſeveral charter-ſchools, that it will admit of the means to provide, not indeed a greater number of Maſters, Inſtructors, &c. &c. but Men of much ſuperior qualifications. Another advantage of infinite conſequence will be derived from the great care of ſuperintendence and the regular execution of every duty. The children who ſhall be

firſt brought on this eſtabliſhment ſhould be draughted from the ſeveral charter-ſchools, with a regard to their ſuperiority of talents and good behaviour, and by this means indeed an improvement might be formed in ſuch of the charter-ſchools as ſhould remain, if the object of removal of the children from them to this higher ſituation ſhould become a ſpur to emulation and induſtry. The number of charter-ſchools ſhould of courſe be diminiſhed after theſe firſt draughts, and the remaining children be diſtributed among ſuch as ſhould ſtill be kept on foot in ſuch places as might be thought proper and convenient to anſwer the great purpoſes of their inſtitution. Perhaps indeed, it may not, under ſuch a regulation as this, be found inexpedient to preſerve always a certain number of theſe ſmaller ſchools, into which the children might firſt be received previous to their more advantageous removal into the provincial academy. Perhaps alſo, on this account the number of theſe provincial ſchools would not require to be increaſed beyond two. New Geneva is ſo ſituated on the confines of two provinces, as to anſwer in a great degree for the convenience of both; and another ſituation might be choſen for a ſecond eſtabliſhment with ſimilar reference to the accommodation of the two other provinces. I would here only throw out a ſuggeſtion that poſſibly a third might not improperly be formed, by an alteration and enlargement of the preſent Blue-coat Hoſpital in Dublin. It is not however, at all events, my purpoſe to limit the number or extent to which hereafter ſuch uſeful

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inſtitutions may be carried by the increaſe of means for their endowment and ſupport; but, wiſhing to avoid every thing which may be deemed a mere ſpeculation, I would confine myſelf at preſent to ſchemes of aſſured practicability. I will not pretend to form any exact eſtimate of the expence under diſtinct heads, which muſt probably attend the ſupport of one of theſe eſtabliſhments on the footing already mentioned; but having reflected upon the proper amount of ſalaries and allowances for maſters and other neceſſary officers, ſuch as ſtewards, wardrobe-keepers, houſe-keepers, matrons, cooks, porters, &c. &c. and having conſidered alſo a ſort of average for the ſupport of the children in diet and cloathing and other neceſſaries, and having proceeded further to conceive the expediency of a fund for the rewards of children, and for the fees or gratuities to be given with them upon their removal from the academy into different purſuits and occupations, I can hardly make the whole amount fall ſhort of 11000*l.* or 12000*l.* per annum.

I have hitherto ſpoken only of a partial plan in favour of one ſex; but I ſhould be ſorry not to be ſuppoſed to have given my attention to a proviſion of ſome advantages in education to the other ſex alſo, who might be brought up in a manner to be rendered more proficient in the exerciſe of thoſe occupations, which women are competent and well ſuited to; reading, writing, grammar, arithmetic, ſpinning, knitting, needle-

work, embroidery, lace-making, millinery, mantua-making, houſe-keeping, drawing, &c. &c.

I had, on my firſt view of theſe ſubjects, formed the project of adding to each of theſe academies, a certain number of female children, whoſe reſidence might poſſibly have been ſo arranged, as to have been kept ſeparate from that of the boys, and yet have been within reach of the advantage of the general ſuperintendence and protection. But it is, upon the whole, perhaps moſt adviſeable to provide ſeparate eſtabliſhments for the females; and this may be done, in ſome degree, upon a ſimilar principle with thoſe deſigned for the boys in each province. I believe, that there are at preſent about ſix hundred girls in the different charter-ſchools. I would ſuggeſt the propriety of providing for the addition of two hundred more, and diſpoſe of them in equal proportions in the four provinces of the kingdom.

Upon a general reviſion, therefore, of the numbers in contemplation to be educated under this part of the ſyſtem, with a view to reaſonable practicability, we may make two great academies, containing eight hundred each, in the Blue Coat Hoſpital of Dublin, and in a ſmall number of charter-ſchools, for ſupply to the academies about ſix hundred more, and in different ſituations for girls, to the amount of eight hundred, ſo that there will be a total of about three thouſand children.

The funds which we muſt firſt look to for the ſupport of at leaſt ſo much of this plan, as may

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firſt be carried into execution, (depending always for its further extenſion on the poſſible future increaſe of ſufficient means) are thoſe, in the firſt place, under the care and management of the Incorporated Society, which I believe I may eſtimate at about 13,000*l.* per annum.—To this I would recommend the addition of parliamentary grant of 7000*l.* ſo as to make this fund amount to 20,000*l.* per annum.

I would not poſtpone to a more diſtant notice, another ſource of contribution which may ariſe from the charitable and patriotic diſpoſition of generous individuals, although I ſhall not venture to carry ſuch gifts and benefactions to account, as a certain addition to the appropriated fund. I might urge perhaps, however, as a good foundation for confidence in this reſpect, that every donation for ſuch a purpoſe, would be employed according to its intent in public utility, and could not fail of producing the happieſt effects. I am induced to mention another reſource from my obſervation of the precedent in Chriſt's Hoſpital, where ſubſcribers of a certain ſum become annual governors, and have turns of preſentment to the charity. I would recommend this method to be adopted here, but that ſuch governors ſhould not be admitted to a ſhare in the direction or management of the eſtabliſhments. It might not, perhaps, be unreaſonable to expect upon ſuch a ſubject, that well endowed corporations within the reſpective provinces, ſhould contribute ſome aſſiſtance towards the ſucceſs of an inſtitution, whoſe

principal tendency is to benefit the moſt uſeful claſs of citizens in the community. Having already, both in a former part of the general ſubject, and in an earlier ſtage of this diviſion of it, taken notice of the ſcheme for patronage, guardianſhip, viſitation and inſpection, I ſhall not here take up the time of the committee by any more preciſe explanation of them, or of the rules which muſt be ſettled for nomination and admiſſion to theſe eſtabliſhments.

I would only obſerve, that it might eſſentially promote the great object of emulation in this ſyſtem, if the inſpectors upon their circuit, ſhould be inveſted with a diſcretionary power, to elect from the pariſh ſchools in each province, two or three of the moſt deſerving children, upon a public examination, to be admitted into any of the ſuperior claſſes of the provincial academy.

I am well aware that upon a ſubject of ſo extenſive and complicated a nature as this, I may have omitted to mention ſeveral points of importance for your conſideration; but I cannot venture to impoſe upon your patience, by a further attempt to recollect and to ſubmit them to you. I muſt only indulge a hope, that the general expoſition which I have already made, may have been ſufficiently explicit to convey an intelligible outline of my plan, and (what I muſt ſtill deem of greater importance) to attract your attention and conſideration for the improvement of it. I ſhall therefore, here cloſe the ſecond diviſion of the ſyſtem.

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Having in the preceding diviſions of this ſubject, ſpoken of the means by which the lower orders of the people, and thoſe deſigned for various lines of buſineſs in the middling rank of life, might receive the benefit of a ſuitable education, I would now proceed to another gradation in the ſyſtem, and conſider the opportunities, which may be offered to thoſe who would wiſh to avail themſelves for their children, *of a claſſical education* at a ſmall expence, and within the reach of a limited circuit. This muſt be a great object for thoſe, who are intended for learned profeſſions, and cannot afford the expence of the higher or more diſtant eſtabliſhments, and have therefore uſually very ſlender foundations of knowledge and information. It muſt be very uſeful to all the gentry of the neighbourhood, eſpecially thoſe of ſmall fortunes, who though having no view of engaging in buſineſs or of following a profeſſion, muſt yet wiſh to appear among thoſe of their own rank of life, with as much advantage as poſſible in every endowment of the mind and manners. In a certain degree and for a certain time, there are many deſcriptions of youth, who would by ſuch opportunity of acquiring correctly the rudiments of learning, be greatly aſſiſted in the future proſecution of different ſtudies or vocations, and would thereby attract in many inſtances a different and a ſuperior reſpect to whatever line of employment they may be engaged in throughout their future courſe of life.

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The inſtitution of dioceſan ſchools, under the act of the 12th of Elizabeth, has always ſtruck me as being well calculated to furniſh thoſe benefits which I have mentioned, and I cannot avoid expreſſing a very ſincere regret that they ſeem in many inſtances to have engaged ſo little attention to their due ſupport and encouragement. If we were to form a judgment of the ſtate and condition of theſe ſchools, from the returns upon your table, we ſhould be induced to conclude, that they had hardly any preſent exiſtence at all, or that they were at leaſt abandoned to neglect and obſcurity: I can however with much ſatisfaction aſſure you, that the reaſons for the inſufficiency of theſe returns are accompanied with well founded expectations of their being ſoon improved. The orders and enquiries of the Houſe of Commons appear to have been addreſſed to certain officers, who were not competent to give the information required. Having ſince taken occaſion to talk with ſome of the bench of biſhops upon the ſubject, I am perſuaded that we ſhall have no further difficulty in obtaining the moſt complete and ſatisfactory accounts. The object at all events, of our enquiries and deliberations upon this point, will, I truſt, terminate in the full eſtabliſhment and perfect regulation of twenty-two dioceſan ſchools throughout the kingdom. We muſt be aware that the number of dioceſes exceed thoſe of the biſhops, but I imagine that the number of ſchools will be ſufficient, if we take them according to the amount of the biſhops rather than of their dioceſes. Some advantages may ariſe in certain caſes, for the better endowment of one ſchool from

from the combination of the limited proviſions for two. Theſe ſeminaries, well eſtabliſhed, regulated, and overlooked, would afford a very liberal education to many ranks of the community, and ſpeedily work a moſt favourable change throughout the country. The firſt ſtep which I conceive it neceſſary for us to take, in order to carry this object into effect, is to reviſe the ſeveral acts from 12 Elizabeth to 29 George II. for the eſtabliſhment and maintenance of dioceſan ſchools, and ſchool houſes, and we ſhall thereby be enabled to judge of the proviſions which have been already made by the legiſlature for theſe purpoſes, and what proceedings it will be adviſeable to adopt, in order to derive the full benefit of them, or in what caſes it may be requiſite to make additional ſupplies and regulations. It is not matter of doubt but of certainty, that the ſtatutes referred to, although ſtill of force, have not been obſerved with a liberal execution, and we have therefore not only to lament, that the houſes are in ruins, and the grounds which have been annexed to them, are now hardly to be retraced, but that too often the maſter has become an exile, and the diſciples are no where to be found. I am ſatisfied, however, that all is not irrecoverably loſt, but on the contrary, that the ſimple enforcement of the laws in being, and diligent and well directed ſearch and purſuit of uſurpation, will have the effect of reinſtating the maſter at once, in the poſſeſſion of a ſuitable reſidence, with accommodations for his ſcholars, and of ſuch portion of ground as has at any time been granted as

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an appendage to his ſituation. Acts of parliament have been paſſed at ſeveral times in confirmation of the ſame objects, by making proviſion for the building, maintenance and repair of dioceſan ſchool houſes. The charges therein are impoſed on the dioceſes at large, that is upon ſuch counties or parts of counties, of which the dioceſes are compoſed, and the juſtices of the King's Bench, the judges of aſſize, and the juſtices of peace at quarter-ſeſſions, are required to give theſe acts in charge from time to time to the ſeveral grand juries, and to be very circumſpect in ſeeing the ſame put in due execution. It cannot be conceived that an expence of this kind, and for ſuch an object, can occaſion any reluctance in any county to provide for it; and we may therefore, I am perſuaded, feel the greater encouragement to perſevere in our endeavours to put theſe inſtitutions upon a more reſpectable footing, by the confidence we may entertain of entire co-operation and aſſiſtance. By ſome of the ſame acts, the Lord Lieutenant and Council were empowered to apportion a ſum for ſalaries, to be paid by the biſhop and his beneficed clergy. It does not appear, that this authority has been exerciſed in every dioceſe, and indeed, few accounts are preſerved of the exact time or manner, in which ſuch contributions as now exiſt were firſt impoſed. One rule was indeed eſtabliſhed in the act of Elizabeth, for the exact proportion, although not for the groſs amount of the proviſion, one-third of which was to be charged upon the biſhop, and two-thirds upon his clergy: The ſum

which has accordingly been fixed is not exactly the ſame in every dioceſe, but in moſt of them is 30*l.* per annum, of which the biſhop of courſe pays 10*l.* I would moſt reluctantly, upon this occaſion, enter into any detail of the ſeveral abuſes, by which the good purpoſes of theſe inſtitutions have been defeated, but the returns upon your table force me to this unpleaſant remark, that in ſome inſtances the dioceſan ſchool-maſters complain of the bad payment of the ſmall pittance, which they are to receive from individuals for their ſupport in the exerciſe of their duty; while, on the other hand, I am afraid, it is not leſs true, that ſome of theſe maſters receive the whole of their ſalary, the better to enable them to reſide in idleneſs at a diſtance from their ſchools. It will not therefore, I conceive, be deemed inexpedient either to attempt a reform of theſe abuſes, or to recommend a new ſcheme and rate of contribution, which may more effectually improve and maintain theſe revived eſtabliſhments. I hope that in looking to the fair diſtribution of the ſhares of ſupply, and conſidering the original direction in that reſpect, I ſhall not be thought to offer any unwarrantable propoſal in aſſigning to the biſhops an increaſed amount of contribution, according to the circumſtances of their dioceſes. Works of charity and the cultivation of learning, are undoubted principles of moſt diſtinguiſhed luſtre in their characters and functions. I certainly do not mean to impoſe upon their zeal a demand which they have not means to anſwer; for I have real ſatisfaction in my belief, that poverty is not per-

haps in general a great grievance amongſt that ſacred order in this kingdom. Let it not however be ſuppoſed that I have the moſt diſtant intention of imputing to them any repugnance to an arrangement of this kind, becauſe I am perfectly ſenſible, as well from my own knowledge, as from other inconteſtible aſſurance, that the deciſion of the legiſlature in this reſpect, which can never be, I ſuppoſe, unreaſonable, will be accepted and obeyed by them with the utmoſt chearfulneſs and liberality. But although we may conceive it juſt (and they may be diſpoſed to confirm it by their ready acquieſcence) to expect from that quarter a larger aid than heretofore, towards a fund which, as it is propoſed to add to the objects of appropriation, muſt be augmented; yet I preſume it will not be thought leſs reaſonable to point out other ſources, from which an equitable addition may alſo be drawn. Deans and chapters, (although I am ſenſible that the endowments of them in this country, are very different from thoſe with which they are enriched amongſt our neighbours), may ſtill, as dignitaries in the church, and their collective bodies, afford a ſmall proportion of the ſupply. I will next call to your notice the beneficed clergy, but I confeſs that one of my motives for encreaſing the demand upon the epiſcopacy and upon the dignitaries, together with other deſcriptions of public men, whom I ſhall have immediate occaſion to mention, was founded in the hope, that we might at all events not be compelled to call upon their inferior brethren for an additional contribution; but that, on the contrary, we might be

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able to exonerate thoſe at leaſt amongſt them, whoſe incomes are ſmall, from even their preſent incumbrance. It ſhould indeed be remembered, that I have already propoſed to lay an increaſed charge upon the parochial clergy, according to the reſpective values of their livings, for the better ſupport of the ſchools within their pariſhes; and I ſhould therefore be induced to ſuggeſt the juſtice of their exemption in the preſent caſe. My object certainly would lead me, as far as is practicable, in every inſtance, to make the rich, who are poſſeſſed of an abundance of the good things of this world, furniſh thereout ſome means of relief to thoſe who have to ſtruggle with all the difficulties ariſing from the want or the ſcarcity of them. In addition therefore to the biſhops and the dignitaries, I ſhould be diſpoſed to ſeek for a very ſmall benevolence from perſons, whether eccleſiaſtical or civil, who hold employments of rank and emolument under the biſhop. The general property of the counties will, although in a very ſmall degree, be liable to ſome charge by the neceſſity of building and maintaining ſchools and ſchool-houſes: But I muſt farther venture to obſerve, that great officers of the counties within the dioceſe, ſuch as the governors, the cuſtodes rotulorum, knights of the ſhire, members for cities, towns or boroughs within the dioceſe, and certain other perſons, might likewiſe, upon the principle already mentioned, become proper contributors to the fund; and this flattering circumſtance would reſult to them from it, that by the ſame act they would certify the honourable diſtinc-

tion and privilege of their ſuperior truſts and dignities, and enjoy the conſcious gratification of promoting a generous improvement of education amongſt their countrymen. This inducement will indeed, I truſt, have an operation of much wider extent than upon the minds of thoſe only who can be included under any certain deſcription in an obligation for aſſiſtance. I cannot cloſe the liſt of rated contributors without expreſſing upon this, as upon ſome preceding occaſions, a confident aſſurance that I might juſtly add to it a greater catalogue of voluntary ſubſcribers than I ſhall pretend to confine within the limits of any number or valuation.——The condition of each eſtabliſhment in the ſeveral dioceſes, muſt depend upon the amount and appropriation of the annual income for its ſupport, when that ſhall be aſcertained, independent of caſual and temporary benefactions, which may be well applied to extraordinary objects of laſting or occaſional benefit to the ſociety, or to ſome of its deſerving members. A very principal object at all events in any arrangement of theſe ſeminaries, and the firſt charge upon the funds, whatever they may be, are the appointments and ſalaries of the maſters, who ſhould be choſen with great care and circumſpection: They may be nominated by the Lord Lieutenant, and removeable upon proper repreſentation through the biſhop. For their certain income they ſhould have a liberal ſalary, but not of ſuch amount as to make them independent, or indifferent to the number of their ſcholars or the reputation of their ſchools, from which ſhould ariſe

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the chief part of their emoluments; and whilſt they ſhould be encouraged by every honourable incitement of competition and diſtinction to the zealous diſcharge of their duty; it ſhould in this reſpect be further enſured by frequent and impartial viſitation and inſpection. They ſhould each be provided with the convenience of a comfortable houſe with ſufficient ſchool-rooms, a ſpace for garden and play-ground. By the act of Eliz. the ſchool-houſe is to be in the principal ſhire-town of the dioceſe; I am ſenſible of many advantages which muſt reſult to the ſchool, from the ſituation of it in the place of epiſcopal reſidence; yet I can conceive other collateral circumſtances, which may render it leſs eligible, and might lead to a preference of another ſpot; and therefore in ſuch caſes, in which it ſhall be found that there at preſent exiſt neither ſchool or ſchool-houſe, I ſhould not think it adviſeable to make the poſition of them in the ſhire-town indiſpenſable, but rather allow them to be fixed in ſuch place as the biſhop, with the approbation of the chief governor, ſhould ſee fit.

It is clear, from the ſeveral ſtatutes upon this ſubject, but particularly from the act of 7 W. III. c. 4. which provides for the conſtant keeping of a Latin free ſchool in every dioceſe, that theſe dioceſan ſchools have been uniformly conſidered as free ſchools: Yet in many of the returns to the Houſe of Commons, this ſeems not to be admitted in its full extent; it ſhould now be put out of doubt, and I would venture to propoſe that at all events,

events, a certain limited number of boys ſhould be free ſcholars, upon the recommendation of the contributors, but with a reſtriction in the choice of proper objects, who ſhould be the children of perſons incapable themſelves of paying for their inſtruction. Voluntary benefactors ſhould alſo have a power of nominating free ſcholars, and an allowance for their tuition might be given to the maſter from the general fund. It would be proper to fix the ſum to be paid annually by the other boys to a certain ſmall amount, and perhaps a ſhare of it ſhould be allotted to the aſſiſtant, who ſhould have the care of the particular claſs in which each boy reſpectively ſhould happen to be placed, at the time of regular payments. Some regulation indeed ſhould take place in reſpect to the appointment and number of aſſiſtants; I ſhould conceive that this ought not to depend upon the uncontrouled option of the head maſter, but muſt of courſe bear a proportion to the number of ſcholars; a fixed ſalary might, under ſuch circumſtances, be allowed to one, or perhaps (according to the ſtate of the fund) to two aſſiſtants, in addition to the emoluments ariſing from the pupils of their claſs. Theſe, with ſome little gratuity to a writing-maſter, in the hope of obtaining one well qualified for the employment, ſhould be the only charges for ſalaries upon the revenue of the ſchool, and the total might be limited in the higheſt inſtance to 150*l.* but in general to a leſs amount.—Theſe are however, matters of too much detail for your conſideration here, and I have been led to the mention of them, merely from an anxi-

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ety to ſtate all probable objects of expence, and to invite your recollection to reflect upon them at leiſure. Statutes, regulations, rules and orders, will of courſe be eſtabliſhed by the Lord Lieutenant, with proper advice. The plan, method, and particular objects of inſtruction; the hours of attendance in ſchool, of employment or leiſure out of it, and the inſurance of good diſcipline in all caſes muſt be well and clearly aſcertained and ſettled; I would only here recommend, that theſe ſhould prevail uniformly in all the dioceſan ſchools, and that no power ſhould be veſted in the maſters to change them but with ſpecial approbation.—— It is not my province or pretenſion, nor is it indeed within my ability to dictate the particular exerciſes or courſes of ſtudy, which would moſt profitably in ſucceſſion engage the attention of the youthful ſtudent; but I cannot refrain even in this part of my ſubject, confined as it ſhould be to the conſideration of the beſt claſſical inſtruction, from repeating my opinion, that even for that purpoſe, more attention than uſual might be given, and more time devoted to improvement in our own language. It ſhould certainly be learned and practiſed thoroughly by rule and exerciſe, as the very beſt foundation for any ſuperſtructure whatever, but of infinite uſe towards the attainment of ſuch knowledge of the dead languages as may be carried to moſt account in the progreſs of life. Let me therefore add, that in this view the correct tranſlation of either Greek or Latin into Engliſh, would be the moſt uſeful leſſon, and ſhould attract the ſtricteſt attention and moſt effectual

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encouragement. By ſuch means the ſtudent may really be enabled to form an intimate acquaintance with the peculiarities, excellencies, or defects of the original author; and thus his thoughts will be at once multiplied and invigorated: His ideas will be harmonized, and his ſtile will be chaſtened for compoſition, which is indiſputably the grand object of claſſical education, and the improvement of which (if I am not greatly miſinformed), together with a more pure and correct declamation form the chief *deſiderata* in the ſchools of this country. I am almoſt apprehenſive of appearing pedantic, when I obtrude ſtill this one more obſervation; that, whatever plan or method of inſtruction may be adopted, or into whatever diviſion of claſſes the buſineſs may be caſt, it will, I truſt, be occaſionally interrupted by public examinations of ſerious attention, and ending in diſtinctions of reward or diſcredit, which ſhould be contrived upon a real principle to work a decided effect. Nothing will more conduce thereto, than to allow the boys to queſtion and examine each other, under the direction and arbitration of their maſter. The means of information in other collateral branches of education, ſuch as writing and arithmetic, will of courſe be provided and attendance enforced; nor ſhould opportunities or encouragement be wanting to improve the accompliſhments of the body, as well as thoſe of the mind, and indeed they be made ſubſervient to the eſſential purpoſes of health and activity, and of emulation and ſpirit.

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I have, Sir, to ſubmit to the committee, yet a further arrangement, which I would earneſtly recommend to your adoption; although, perhaps in this ſhape, a novel propoſition in this country, and inducing ſome expence to the public, yet I conceive of almoſt indiſpenſable conſequence to the ſucceſs of two leading principles in my ſyſtem; "The one to diſtinguiſh and to foſter youthful genius and talents, and to ſtimulate their exertion by rewards for merit." The other, "To awake and to extend the ſpirit of competition among the inſtructors of youth, as well as among their diſciples." I would propoſe, therefore, that ſome ſtudentſhips or exhibitions (the number of which muſt of courſe depend upon the quantum of parliamentary aid, or of funds ariſing from endowments or benefactions, to be hereafter given or bequeathed for ſuch purpoſe,) ſhould by degrees be attached to theſe dioceſan ſeminaries, for præmiums and aſſiſtance to boys of ſuperior abilities and qualifications, upon their removal to the univerſity, and during a certain courſe of years of their continuance in it. Under the idea which I have already ſuggeſted of their probable influence, as general incentives to diligence and emulation, it would be right to give a diſcretionary power to the proper viſitors and examiners, (hereafter to be appointed) to ſelect the beſt qualified and moſt deſerving ſcholars from any of the dioceſan ſchools, for ſucceſſion to an exhibition, without regard to choice from each ſchool in rotation. This irregularity is not only eligible, but in a great meaſure neceſ-

ſary as an expedient, becauſe of the inadequate number of exhibitions to give an annual vacancy for a boy from each ſchool throughout the kingdom. Particular benefactions may however, be made with the ſpecial object of confining the choice to particular ſchools, and in ſuch caſes the intent and directions of the donor or teſtator ſhould not be counteracted. But for a general rule I would preſume to adviſe, that the only limitation of election ſhould be to the ſeveral *provinces*, as it may be thought too great a latitude to be left to the diſcretion of the viſitors and examiners, and would probably be attended with much inconvenience and embarraſſment, for them to make their choice from any of the whole number of *twenty-two dioceſes*. Thus if there ſhould be twelve annual vacancies for exhibitions, would it not tend greatly to encourage a deſirable competition among the ſchools and the maſters of them, as well as among the ſcholars, if three of theſe ſhould be choſen for real ſuperiority of merit, from any of the dioceſan ſchools in each province reſpectively? In order, therefore, to ſecure a proviſion for this arrangement, I ſhould hope that an annual grant would be made by parliament of 2000*l.* to commence at the expiration of one year, after the paſſing of an act for the reformed eſtabliſhment of dioceſan ſchools.

I ſhould not indeed propoſe to inſtitute the firſt exhibitions before the end of three or four years from that time, when twelve of them might take place, with an allowance to each of 25*l.* per annum, and an addition of twelve exhibitioners,

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ſhould be elected annually from thence forward, until the total number of eighty-four ſhould be completely removed to the univerſity, and ſhould each of them enjoy there this propoſed benefaction of 25*l.* a year for ſeven years, unleſs diſqualified at an earlier period by removal or marriage, or preferment or other proviſion, except in certain caſes. At the end of that period the whole annual fund, with ſome exceeding, would be employed, as the charge for eighty-four ſtudents, at 25*l.* each, would amount to 2100*l.* but the accumulation of principal and intereſt during the interval from the date of the firſt grant, would create an augmentation much more than adequate to the increaſed demand at the end of ſeven years. At that time, and with progreſſion afterwards, the numbers might be proportionably increaſed, until all the fund ſhould be annually exhauſted, except ſuch part as it might be thought right to appropriate to the no leſs uſeful purpoſe of diminiſhing the expence of education, and enlarging the means of reward to poor and meritorious boys, during their ſtay at ſchool.—The examination and appointment for a ſucceſſion to any of theſe exhibitions, ſhould at all events, and under any regulation of numbers and allowances, be moſt ſerious and impartial; and for that, among other moſt uſeful objects, I ſhall be induced preſently to lay before you, as one of the moſt ſalutary parts of my ſyſtem, a ſcheme of viſitation, inſpection, and examination, which may be extended in its application to every claſſical ſchool in the kingdom, ſupported or aided by public

money, or under the care or patronage of government, upon an idea ſomewhat ſimilar to thoſe propoſed for adoption in regard to Engliſh ſchools.

The Lord Lieutenant will indeed, himſelf be the great guardian viſitor, with the aid of ſuch council as he may pleaſe to take. The Biſhop of the dioceſe ſhould act immediately under him, and the inſpectors and examiners after their circuits, ought to make ſpecial reports to the Biſhops reſpectively, who will lay them before the Lord Lieutenant, and if it ſhall be thought adviſeable and uſeful, copies of them before both Houſes of Parliament.

The review of the heads of expence under this diviſion, and of the ways and means for the ſupport of them, is perfectly ſimple and ſhort, but in ſtating it, I cannot poſſibly pretend to fill up all the blanks with the productive ſums, but muſt leave them for conſideration.

The firſt object of expence is temporary, and conſiſts of

Proper buildings and convenience for one dioceſan ſchool in each dioceſe.

Two acres or more of ground annexed to each.

They are to be at the charge of the dioceſe, that is of ſuch counties or parts of counties as are in it.

The ſecond object of expence is annual, and conſiſts of

Repairs at the charge of the dioceſe.

Maſter's ſalary.

First Aſſiſtant.
Second Aſſiſtant,
Writing-maſter.
Rewards.
Exhibitions.

N. B.—Two aſſiſtants may not always be neceſſary.

The ways and means are,

Biſhop's contribution.
Dean and Chapter ditto.
Officers of the dioceſe ditto.
Great officers and repreſentatives of the county, &c. contributions.
Parliamentary aid.
County or dioceſan preſentments.

I here conclude the third diviſion of the ſyſtem.

I now proceed to collegiate ſchools. The plan for the future regulation of dioceſan ſchools, (the ſketch of which has been now ſubmitted to you) lays the firſt foundation for improvement, in claſſical education, upon a general ſyſtem. The objects, however, to which even theſe with much enlargement can be extended, muſt ſtill, from various circumſtances, remain in ſome degree limited. It remains therefore, to conſider the method by which the inſtruction of youth for the firſt line of profeſſional diſtinction, and the ſucceſsful cultivation of abilities and accompliſhments for the higheſt departments in public affairs, may be advanced to the greateſt degree of perfection.—This muſt be effected by qualifying the ſcholars,

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in as ſhort and complete a manner as poſſible for removal to the univerſity, and of courſe by making them capable of purſuing their ſtudies there with ſuperior advantage and ſucceſs. I have already been led to make the obſervation, that there are not wanting in this country inſtitutions for the education of youth, ſupported by very ample endowments, but that the appropriation or rather miſapplication of the funds, tends entirely to defeat thoſe generous purpoſes which had, no doubt, excited the original contemplation and deſign. It is indeed, under the preſent circumſtances of the greater number of theſe eſtabliſhments, almoſt impoſſible to trace any thing like a rational plan of executive education.

The *certain* income of the maſter is infinitely too great to make it either a neceſſary or intereſting object to him, to collect a great number of ſcholars, or to extend the reputation of his ſchool by any effort of labour or aſſiduity. If there ſhould be any condition impoſed upon him by the founder, (which is not always the caſe) to give a gratuitous inſtruction to any number or deſcription of children, there ſeems to have been added no cautionary proviſion for enforcing the execution of theſe directions; and it ought not, therefore, to occaſion any ſurprize, that in all the returns made to the Houſe of Commons upon this ſubject, there appears to be a very ſmall number indeed of *free-ſcholars*. I ſhould be ſorry to appear in this part of my ſtatement, more than in thoſe which have preceded it, to have any purpoſe of uſeleſs reflection or cenſure, without any immediate view

to

to indiſpenſable alteration. The defects in a ſyſtem of ſuch importance ſhould be radically cured, and this object cannot be accompliſhed without an almoſt entire change in the diſpoſition and uſe of thoſe means which are or may be provided for the eſtabliſhment of efficient ſchools, and the real communication of learning and knowledge. I cannot entirely ſuppreſs a ſort of impulſe of indignation in reflecting on ſome prepoſterous perverſions of theſe liberal inſtitutions, which in the courſe of inveſtigation have come within my knowledge. Can it be ſuppoſed that ſo abſurd an intention was originally conceived, as to laviſh on a nominal ſchool-maſter an extravagant income, and to indulge him in ſo palpable a ſubterfuge for the performance of his duty, as the mere deputation of an incompetent ſubſtitute, at a ſalary which would not tempt a perſon of moderate qualifications to undertake ſo important and ſo laborious an employment? Can it be ſuppoſed poſſible that in any conſtruction of the will or directions of the founder, the maſter can be juſtified in receiving a moſt liberal emolument for his ſuppoſed attention to a ſeminary of education, in which he not only gives no regular attendance, but the ſcite of which perhaps he has never ſeen, and would be incapable of being a witneſs to prove its abſolute exiſtence? Can a melancholy return of the names of ſix or eight ragged children, under ſuch a colour of inſtruction, ſatisfy a houſe of parliament without further conſideration, that there are well eſtabliſhed ſchools for the education of their own children or thoſe of their conſtituents; when the greater number of you muſt yourſelves be aware,

that

that you would ſeek in vain for an opportunity in ſuch foundations, under their preſent circumſtances, of giving a tolerable education to the youth of much inferior ranks of the community? I have therefore again to obſerve to you, that theſe defects muſt be radically cured. The real and well qualified inſtructors of your children, (than whom there can hardly be conceived a more deſerving claſs of ſociety) ſhould certainly receive competent and liberal ſalaries, but ſhould be chiefly indebted to their own exertions, and the ſuperior influence of their own good conduct, for the acquiſition of very large incomes. The means of obtaining inſtruction ſhould to the ſcholars be rendered as cheap as poſſible, and their progreſs and proficiency ſhould be encouraged by rewards and diſtinctions, but ſtill more, by proviſions of a higher nature in a more advanced ſtate of the courſe of education. It will be in vain to expect either any attempts to draw forth the efforts of genius without making it an object of intereſt to the maſter to do ſo, or to ſee many examples of the voluntary exertions of abilities or talents in the boys, without any motive of emulation or object of diſtinction; nor can learning be puſhed to thoſe noble heights and attainments of which it is capable, by the mere opportunities given to the rich of purchaſing every ſtep towards it.

The capacity for literary improvement is not confined to ſuperior rank of birth alone, but ought to be cheriſhed wherever it may be found or ſhall preſent itſelf, by encouragement and proviſion for its cultivation, and by honour and reward for its maturity. Incitements to competition, although

though different in their kinds, muſt conduce greatly to the progreſs of learning, both among the rich, and thoſe of more humble ſituations; the one to add accompliſhments to affluence, and to maintain their ſuperiority in rank and wealth; the other to acquire affluence to merit, and to advance themſelves to a ſhare in the higher objects of ambition. There are numberleſs inſtances in the great ſchools in England, where theſe colliſions of emulation among different ranks have produced the nobleſt advantages to both. In the eſtabliſhment, therefore, of a place or places of education in the higheſt line within this kingdom, a ſimilar plan ſhould be adopted, and while every good opportunity may be opened for the attainment of general erudition to thoſe who can afford to pay for it; invitation ought alſo to be given to others of more humble condition to purſue the ſame courſe without the preſent expence attending it, and with the ultimate view of more decided advantages. Other motives for the eſtabliſhment or reformation of great ſchools have been ſuggeſted to me from many quarters, and indeed by the general repreſentation and complaint of the defective methods at preſent uſually purſued in the courſe of inſtruction, I would aſcribe the deficiencies chiefly to theſe defects of method, without imputation on the abilities or laudable exertions of many worthy preceptors; and I would accordingly endeavour to ſuggeſt the remedy moſt applicable to theſe inconveniencies.

For theſe purpoſes therefore, and to afford thoſe openings of encouragement, the want of which

have been felt and lamented, for the efforts of genius and ability, I would propoſe that two great ſchools ſhould be eſtabliſhed in this kingdom, under the authority of the legiſlature, founded and ſupported at the public charge, or by the regulation of thoſe ſtatutes and endowments, with which ſome ſchools are at preſent provided, and where the inſtitution upon the preſent footing is rendered of no uſe for the purpoſe of good education. It may however, perhaps be adviſeable, that a beginning ſhould be made by eſtabliſhing only one of theſe ſchools, and at all events, in venturing to ſketch out to you the outlines of a plan, I ſhall ſpeak of only one eſtabliſhment, which indeed, if approved, may become with little or perhaps no variation the model for a ſecond.

The different inſtitutions of this kind in England, will of courſe be ſuppoſed to have furniſhed the chief materials for the ſcheme which I have to ſubmit to you, and I have wiſhed to make a ſelection of the beſt principles and regulations from each. I had originally conceived the idea of propoſing the appointment of a principal or ſuperior of the ſociety, according to the plan at the Charter-houſe in London, who with neceſſary ſubordinate officers, ſhould manage and direct all the internal œconomy and order of the place. The motives which influenced my mind upon this occaſion, were the deſire of removing from the maſter the inconvenience of a troubleſome ſolicitude about objects, which do not immediately relate to the buſineſs or diſcipline of the ſchool, and might interfere with his neceſſary attention to them.

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But upon more reflection, and eſpecially upon conſultation with ſeveral gentlemen, for whoſe judgment I have the higheſt reſpect, I am inclined to think that this office may be diſpenſed with, as not of expediency adequate to the additional expence which would attend it. A treaſurer or ſteward therefore, accountable to the maſter, might anſwer the purpoſe of receiving the revenues, and managing the proper arrangement and expenditure of the houſehold, with ſuch inferior aſſiſtants as may be wanting to officiate in daily ſervice and attendance under him. The firſt eſtabliſhment for the ſchool might conſiſt of one head-maſter, one under-maſter, and one or two aſſiſtants to each, as may be wanted. In proportion as the reputation and ſucceſs of the ſchool ſhall have the effect of increaſing the number of ſcholars, the number of aſſiſtants may alſo be augmented. No computation can of courſe be made of the number of day ſcholars or boarders in private houſes, which may compoſe the maſs of this ſchool; but thoſe who ſhall be upon the foundation, ſhould be limited to a certain number; and I ſhould propoſe that, at leaſt upon the firſt inſtitution, they ſhould not exceed thirty-two boys, and ſhould be called King's Scholars.——They ſhould receive their education, diet and lodging, or dormitory, without any expence. Regulations will of courſe be made for the exact management and œconomy of theſe objects, under the execution of ſuch an officer as I have juſt mentioned. I am much inclined to think that the mode of internal diſcipline in the College of Weſtminſter

is extremely well calculated for ſucceſsful imitation in the plan which may be adopted here.

The maſters and aſſiſtants who ſhall be firſt appointed, ſhould be choſen with eſpecial care, and ſhould perhaps be invited to accept their charges by ſome inducement beyond the immediate ſalary, and other emoluments of the ſchool, which may be ſufficient for thoſe who ſhall be choſen in ſucceſſion afterwards, when every arrangement ſhall be regularly eſtabliſhed, and no riſk of failure or diſappointment be incurred.——The public would not have reaſon to complain, and I am confident would not complain of an unprofitable impoſition, if ſome extraordinary gratification ſhould be granted to their firſt ſervants of this deſcription. It hath been ſtrongly urged to me in advice upon this head, that every endeavour ſhould be uſed to bring, if poſſible, a certain number of able and experienced inſtructors from ſome of the great ſchools in England, as Eton, Weſtminſter, Harrow, Wincheſter, &c. in order to introduce, with more effect, the moſt approved methods of ſtudy practiſed in thoſe ſeminaries.—Their courſes have all of them ingredients well worthy of adoption, and agree in the principal object, by making compoſition the means and the teſt of acquiring the knowledge and the exerciſe of language.——Some improvements, however, might probably be made upon them all, and the opinion and the advice of the moſt learned men from whom they can be obtained, ſhould be ſought for to fix a determined plan for the conduct and obſervance of the inſtructors of ſcholars in the new eſtabliſh-

eſtabliſhment. It is hoped that the time of continuance at the ſchool may be ſomewhat ſhortened, and that in the ſpace of ſeven or eight years, a reaſonable proficiency may be acquired to qualify boys for removal to the Univerſity. It is to be ſuppoſed that no children would come to this ſchool without having been previouſly inſtructed in reading and writing, and having acquired ſome readineſs in the rules of *at leaſt the Engliſh Grammar*. I have, in the courſe of my obſervations upon the preceding diviſion of this ſyſtem, ſo ſtrongly expreſſed my ideas and ſentiments in favour of more than uſual cultivation of our own language, that I will not repeat them here, although I am equally ſolicitous for their ſucceſsful effect in this part of it, and I cannot refrain from hinting, in addition to what has fallen from me before upon this ſubject, the propriety of introducing an Engliſh Claſs, under the care of a particular aſſiſtant.

I ſhould recommend that upon this foundation, as upon that at Weſtminſter, the boys who may be admiſſible, ſhould at the time be placed in the loweſt claſs of the upper ſchool, and that their ſtay therefore, ought not probably in uſual courſe, from that time, to exceed four or five years.—— Their election to be king's ſcholars ſhould be made after a public examination, and at a ſtated time of the year, by examiners who ſhall be appointed for that purpoſe, in conjunction with the maſter. The nature, mode, and objects of the examination, which ſhould be really moſt ſerious and impartial, muſt be aſcertained by future regulations among

among the rules and orders of the eſtabliſhment. And I mention here what has been earneſtly ſuggeſted to me, that it would be proper to adminiſter an oath to the examiners, that they ſhould elect from among the candidates, thoſe only who ſhall appear to them to have ſuperior claim of merit for admiſſion upon the foundation, and ſhall not be obliged to make any election at all, if it ſhould poſſibly happen, (which is, I truſt, hardly within the line of poſſibility) that no one of the candidates ſhould appear to them to be properly qualified for that diſtinction. In a regular courſe of election, eight would be admitted every year during the firſt four years, until the number of thirty-two ſhould be complete; and from the encouragement propoſed to be given to the king's ſcholars, both at ſchool and upon their removal to the Univerſity, it is probable that ſome of the beſt ſcholars from ſome of the different ſchools in the kingdom would ſtrive to obtain admiſſion at the firſt election, which would tend, in a great degree, to confirm the ſucceſs of the inſtitution.

Having ſought to calculate the amount of the expence, from a conſideration of the various objects and articles of it, I ſhould venture to hope that the immediate charge for the maſters, and aſſiſtants, and ſcholars upon the foundation, would not exceed 1200*l.* per annum. Other officers, attendants, and ſeveral incidental expences, might occaſion an addition of 300*l.* per annum to the total. I eſtimate the charge for the boys, one with another, at 20*l.* per annum each. The ſa-

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lary of the head-maſter ſhould, perhaps, be fixed at 200*l.* per annum; that of the under-maſter at 100*l.* and thoſe of the aſſiſtants at 50*l.* each.

The great emolument however, of the maſters, and indeed of the aſſiſtants alſo, will depend upon the admiſſion and continuance of ſcholars, (not upon the foundation) each of whom ſhould pay a fixed annual ſum for their education to the head-maſter, and alſo to the under-maſter, whilſt they ſhould continue in his department. This ſum is, I believe, at Eton, fixed at only four guineas per annum, the greatneſs of numbers compenſating the ſmallneſs of the individual allowance, as well as of the public ſalary. The aſſiſtants alſo will derive great additional benefits from taking private pupils. And if, from the encreaſe of the ſchool, additional aſſiſtants beyond a certain number (perhaps four or ſix) ſhould be required, the allowance, independent of their pupils, might well be defrayed by the head-maſter, whoſe emolument, from the ſame cauſe, would be encreaſed in a very large proportion. But I am afraid of being led into more detail than is conſiſtent with the proper nature of an introductory expoſition, and I ſhall therefore ſeek to ſhorten, as much as poſſible, the trouble I have yet to give you.

At the end of the firſt four years, the Univerſity part of the ſcheme may probably commence by a public examination of the king's ſcholars of the upper form, by the examiners before-mentioned, under the ſame obligation of an oath, to ſelect the moſt deſerving. Six of theſe ſhould be cho-

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ſen by the examiners to receive annual ſtipends, under the name of king's ſtudents in the Univerſity, and in like manner the future ſucceſſion ſhould be maintained by an annual election of the ſame number.

It has been ſuggeſted to me that the two unſucceſsful candidates ſhould leave the ſchool, ſo that the ſucceſſion of the king's ſcholars ſhould not be interrupted; I have doubts however, of the propriety of this idea; for as the preference of ſix out of the eight would naturally ſecure the great object of competition, there does not ſeem any reaſon why the diſappointed candidates ſhould not have a ſecond opportunity of ſtanding their trial, after which, on failure of ſucceſs, they might be indiſpenſably obliged to quit the ſchool. The election of boys to be placed on the foundation, would of courſe keep pace in reſpect to number with thoſe who ſhall be taken from it. It will happen indeed hereafter, that in ſome years there will be more vacancies among the king's ſtudents than thoſe made by the regular ſucceſſion. Death, preferment, marriages, or other proviſion may carry off ſome of the king's ſtudents before the expiration of their term; but I ſhould be inclined to recommend, from other motives, as well as in order to preſerve regularity of ſucceſſion, that ſuch accidental vacancies ſhould not be filled up, and the annual allowance become a ſaving applicable to various other purpoſes of important uſe to the ſociety. I would propoſe that the ſucceſsful candidate, or king's ſtudent, ſhould receive 30*l.* per annum, for ſeven years from the time

time of his election, unleſs diſqualified during the interval, by certain cauſes to be properly aſcertained. It may however, be right that they ſhould be capable of deſerving ſome additional advantages from the preſent objects of emolument, ſuch as ſcholarſhips in the univerſity; and they ſhould of courſe be capable of becoming candidates for fellowſhips, although upon their ſucceſs, they ſhould relinquiſh their places of king's ſtudents. The total expence attending this part of the plan will, when it ſhall be completed, amount to little more than 1200*l.* per annum, and it cannot reach that ſum till after the expiration of eleven years from the time of opening the ſchool. By this plan a certain proviſion is made for forty-two king's ſtudents, by a ſucceſſion of ſix in each year from the ſchool. This is certainly an object of conſiderable advantage, and muſt in itſelf have a great operation in ſtimulating the exertions of youthful abilities and application; but it is conceived that at a ſmall expence there may be yet a further encouragement added to it, by an annual examination of theſe ſtudents, (when they ſhall have taken their batchelor's degree, and at the end of the fourth year from their admiſſion in the college,) for the promotion of one of their number to a higher and more lucrative rank. I would for this purpoſe propoſe that ſeven ſelect ſtudentſhips, or ſeparate fellowſhips, ſhould be eſtabliſhed, to which the king's ſtudents ought to be eligible after having taken their batchelor's degree, as I have already mentioned, and to enjoy theſe for ſeven years, unleſs they ſhall ſucceed to a

fellowſhſhip, or be in any otherwiſe diſqualified during that period. I would ſuggeſt the addition of 20*l.* per annum, to the 30*l.* already enjoyed by thoſe ſtudents, ſo that the whole ſtipend ſhould amount to 50 *l.* per annum. I have already, in ſpeaking of the former elections, recommended a public and moſt ſerious examination, and I am decidedly of opinion that for this laſt promotion, the trial ſhould, if poſſible, be held with ſtill greater ſtrictneſs and publicity. The ſcheme and method of it ſhould be ſettled among the ſeveral regulations for this ſyſtem, by thoſe who ſhall be appointed for that purpoſe.

I truſt that from theſe ſeveral gradations of proviſion and diſtinction for a ſuperior excellence, in literary merit, the cauſe of learning will be moſt ſucceſsfully advanced; and it ſhould not be reckoned among the leaſt of the benefits which may be expected to ariſe from this arrangement, that the gentlemen advanced to theſe ſituations, eſpecially the latter, may be inſtrumental in extending the improvement of education, by the exemplary diſcharge of various academic duties.

A ſum of leſs than 300*l.* would be the higheſt annual expence attending the introduction of theſe ſelect ſtudentſhips, and would not take place before the expiration of fifteen years, from the time of electing the firſt king's ſcholars, ſo that the total amount of annual expence for the full eſtabliſhments at the ſchool and in the univerſity, would hardly exceed the ſum of 3000*l.* per annum; and having ſtated this, I venture to perſuade myſelf, that the meaſure contains in it materials

terials of public utility, which might well juſtify the claim, if requiſite, of a ſtill more liberal ſupport from the public purſe, ſhould no other ſource of ſupply be diſcovered for appropriation to theſe objects.

But I have ſincerely declared my anxiety to keep within moſt limited bounds the demands for parliamentary aid, which in every event muſt certainly be conſiderable. I have therefore, Sir, with ſtudious enquiry and attention, endeavoured to trace out all neceſſary means of fair contribution towards the general expence; and I am confident, that I have not been miſtaken in ſuppoſing, that a great part of it, to be occaſioned by the foundation of ſcholarſhips in a collegiate ſchool, might juſtly and advantageouſly be drawn from ſome one or more of thoſe inſtitutions, whoſe endowments are at preſent apparently uſeleſs or miſapplied.—This idea and theſe expectations do not reſt upon my own conceptions alone, but have received the ſanction of more accurate obſervation, and more judicious opinion, than I have hitherto had the leiſure, or can ever hope to have the faculties to form or arrange.

I have particularly to acknowledge obligation to my right honourable friend (the Provoſt) near me for his aſſiſtance upon this, as well as upon many other occaſions, in my conſideration of this important ſubject; and I believe myſelf to be well warranted in bringing forward the declaration of his ſentiments, to give weight to my own in this reſpect, that very great abuſes prevail in many of the inſtitutions I have alluded to, by the miſ-

application of their funds, and the dereliction of their object. I have ſatisfied my own mind, and hope to convince you, that it may not only be very poſſible, but very proper to graft our propoſed foundation upon one of theſe ſtocks, and thereby at leaſt, probably to accompliſh the genuine deſign of the original benefaction, as well as to anſwer the end of the preſent public reformation.

I could point out to you an immediate inſtance of glaring notoriety, where the funds aſſigned for the inſtitution of ſchools compared with the employment of them, and the abuſe of even the oſtenſible eſtabliſhment of them, muſt upon every principle of juſtice and common ſenſe, be convertible to efficient purpoſes of public utility. The legiſlature has not only a right, but is bound in duty to act as a truſtee for the public, of an abdicated or an uſurped benefaction to their uſe.—But at all events, equitable meaſures may certainly be taken to effect an uſeful arrangement for the combination of theſe deſigns, and the conſequent foundation of a real ſeminary of education, improved and enlarged by the aid of parliament.

It is foreign from my purpoſe here to dwell upon any circumſtances of detail in reſpect to ſituation, neceſſary buildings, and accommodations, both for maſters and ſcholars, which however muſt be arranged with care and attention to the great objects of health and exerciſe as well as of ſtudy. Plans and eſtimates of courſe, will be prepared and laid before you for your conſideration and deci-

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ſion; and I will content myſelf at preſent with an obſervation, that it may be of material importance to the diſcipline and good order of the ſociety, that a certain ſpecial juriſdiction ſhould be given to the principal maſter within the circuit of the collegiate territory.

Before I conclude what I have to ſay upon the ſubject of reſources, I would wiſh to throw out a few words by way of enquiry and conſideration, rather than of ſuggeſtion, that the additional advantages I would allude to can really, or ought to be contributed from the quarter I will mention towards the more extenſive ſupport of the king's ſtudents. I will therefore leave it at preſent only as *a queſtion*, whether the univerſity, from the circumſtances of her funds, or from the nature of eſtabliſhed regulations, can give her aid for theſe purpoſes? Can rooms be ſupplied, ought they to be ſupplied to theſe ſtudents without any or at very ſmall expence? Can they receive aſſiſtance there by an eleemoſinary proviſion of commons or diet? I believe that ſuch exhibitioners as receive a pecuniary allowance from the funds of Eraſmus Smith's charity, are furniſhed with chambers at no expence. I will only venture to remark, that the introduction of more than forty ſtudents, ſelected with ſuch eſpecial regard to their ſuperior merit, and provided at the public expence with much liberality, muſt be accounted a moſt important acquiſition to any community of learning; and I will preſume to add an expreſſion of confidence, that it will be ſo eſteemed by that learned and moſt reſpectable body, to which, I truſt, juſtly renowned

nowned as it is, theſe choſen band of youth will carry increaſe of credit and celebrity, and by whom they will aſſuredly be received with a generous as well as an indulgent welcome.

A chaſte and elegant ſtyle of compoſition, and a more correct taſte in claſſical learning and polite literature, which would be brought from theſe ſeminaries, would of courſe become objects of greater cultivation in the univerſity, and would ſpeedily take a radical eſtabliſhment by the frequency and ſtrictneſs of examinations, and eſpecially of thoſe propoſed for the choice of ſelect ſtudents. And it is more than probable that the greater number of fellows would, in proceſs of time, be elected from thoſe candidates who had received the firſt part of their education in ſome of the reformed ſchools, and had been removed with diſtinction to complete it in the univerſity.

I think it however neceſſary to guard againſt your poſſible miſapprehenſions, that when I ſpeak with much earneſtneſs of recommendation in favour of improvement in claſſical erudition, and venture to predict many beneficial conſequences from it, that I therefore mean to give it an excluſive preference in my idea, either of its merits or effect, over every other branch of learning, much leſs that it ſhould ſuperſede the neceſſity of cultivating them. In my prophetic election of the greater number of future fellows from thoſe candidates, who had been brought up in theſe ſchools, I did not ſuffer my imagination alone to ſuggeſt the probability, becauſe of their ſingle ſuperiority in claſſical knowledge. But I conceive myſelf in the firſt

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place to be right in the opinion, that this being a very uſeful as well as ornamental part of good education to ſeveral ranks of the community, which will unavoidably engage many of the early years of their life, it is of great importance to render it as perfect as poſſible; and that by ſecuring a foundation of inſtruction upon ſound principles, and by directing the progreſs to its true object, the eſſential diſtinction between good and falſe taſte, both in reading the ancient authors, in imitating their ſtyle by compoſition, or in adopting their ſentiments and expreſſions by occaſional citations, may be formed and accompliſhed to the very great advantage, not only of the world of letters, but of buſineſs alſo. I conceive likewiſe this opinion to be founded in good reaſon, that learning and ſcience are of ſociable diſpoſitions, and love to aid and promote the ſtudies of their mutual votaries; and that the youth who ſhall have deſervedly acquired reputation for ſuperiority in claſſical knowledge, will almoſt univerſally be found to make a more rapid progreſs than his competitors, with equal aſſiduity, to the attainment of every other ſpecies of erudition.

I am inclined to believe that it is unuſual with thoſe who have conceived objections againſt the ſuppoſed utility of claſſical education, from the length of time devoted to it, to conſider it merely as the acquiſition of a power to read and underſtand a ſtrange language, and in that light it might certainly well appear to be a cruel ſacrifice of many uſeful years of life to the ſtudy of it; but when we regard this object in its true nature and extent,

extent, we ſhall ſee that the attainment of language is the ſmalleſt and moſt inſignificant part of it; for beſides the advantageous introduction to good compoſition, which has been already taken notice of, by a continual exerciſe in tranſlating choſen paſſages from the moſt approved ancient authors, we ought to be aware that he is not to be deemed a perfect claſſical ſcholar who can merely render a correct conſtruction of the expreſſions of his author, but he ſhould alſo have followed his ideas and obſervations, by explanatory inveſtigation of their motives and objects in the hiſtory of the cuſtoms, manners and events of the time in which he wrote. Theſe are points of knowledge which are often neceſſary for the elucidation of his meaning, but always of importance for illuſtration and more compleat intelligence. This ſhould be conſidered as an exerciſe and direction to the mind at a time when it would be hardly qualified, or with difficulty prevailed upon to form or methodize original ideas, without ſuch enticement or provocation to the eſſays of inventive compoſition. It is often urged in the ſame ſpirit of objection, that the antients had themſelves no opportunities of exerciſing or improving the early indication of genius and talents by the ſtudy and cultivation of other languages than their own. But in one of the greateſt examples, I am enabled to deny the fact; becauſe the Romans, in their moſt poliſhed times, and under the recommendation and example of their moſt diſtinguiſhed ſcholars, made the ſtudy of the Greek language an eſſential part of a finiſhed education, not for the mere purpoſe of

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acquiring a language of more general uſe, but as conducive to the better underſtanding and improvement of their own. And if we were diſpoſed to penetrate deeply into the antient derivation or improvement of languages, we ſhould have no great difficulty in tracing a ſource from which the Grecians themſelves drew materials of refinement and perfection in their language, which had at the ſame time the effect of enlarging and improving their general ſphere of inſtruction and knowledge.

But having thus expreſſed my ſentiments in regard to the utility and true purpoſes of an early claſſical education, I deem it not improper to add, even in this place, although not immediately deſigned for ſuch remarks, that in my notion of the proper objects for univerſity education, the proficiency in claſſical accompliſhments, and eſpecially in the knowledge of the dead languages, which will have been obtained at ſchool, ſhould here be conſidered rather as a kind of grammar for more general language and literature; and rather to be kept up by a habit of occaſional exerciſe and application, than to retain a monopoly of the mind in the perpetual ſtudy and advancement of it. It ſhould be looked upon as a ſkilful repreſentation of inanimate nature, in the harmonious aſſemblage and diſtribution of her moſt beautiful or romantic ſcenery, which muſt form the neceſſary ground-work for an excellent landſcape, but ſhould not go forth from the hand of the artiſt, as a work of perfection, likely to detain as well as at firſt to catch the eye of admiration, without a judicious

intermixture and variety of living objects and intereſting action.

The ſtudy of mankind then, or of the knowledge beſt adapted for our neceſſary intercourſe and competition with them in all their various ſcenes of active life and employment, (in which I hold it to be the duty of every man of every degree, to conſider himſelf as bound to engage in ſome way or other as a member of the general community) are the real purſuits and occupations, which ſhould chiefly excite the zeal and emulation of the ſtudent in the true career of academic diſtinction. I would lay the foundation with the ſolid materials of ancient learning, but I would conſtruct upon it an habitable edifice in the uſeful orders and proportions of modern literature and ſcience. Upon theſe principles, and with the impreſſion of ſuch opinions upon the moſt advantageous courſe of education, through its ſeveral ſtages, I muſt neceſſary feel the greater degree of ſolicitude for the ſucceſsful eſtabliſhment or reformation of ſuch a ſeminary as that which I have now propoſed for your conſideration; and we may, I truſt, preſume humbly to indulge a hope, that having been recommended under the countenance of royal favour and protection to legiſlative encouragement and ſupport, it may be opened with the flattering ſanction of his majeſty's name, as the patron of it. The chief governor will of courſe act therein as his majeſty's immediate repreſentative, and appoint the neceſſary viſitors and other ſuperintending officers. He will further take care that periodical returns ſhall be

be made to him of the ſtate of the ſchool, and of the ſociety in general, with reſpect to their funds, expences, and general arrangements; theſe returns may be alſo ſubmitted to parliament, if it ſhall be thought proper to call for them, and it may be matter for your conſideration, *what plan may be adopted* for the ſolemn examination and confirmation of the accounts, *&c. &c. &c.*

I have hitherto conſidered the eſtabliſhment of one ſchool only, as the foundation of an immediate connection with the Univerſity, and I have purpoſely avoided any notice of other ſeminaries, circumſtanced nearly as that to which I have particularly alluded in reſpect to uſeleſs or exceſſive endowments. The plan of inſtruction and many other circumſtances of importance, might be arranged under ſimilar regulations in all of them, and I ſhould conceive that a foundation upon a like principle with that already ſketched out, might be properly fixed in ſome one other quarter of the kingdom, and a ſimilar univerſity, connexion, and ſucceſſion be eſtabliſhed.

The generality of theſe ſchools are ſituated in the north and north-weſtern parts of the kingdom, and I would certainly recommend a reformation of them all, and a more efficacious diſpoſition of their very conſiderable funds. If it ſhould be thought adviſeable to raiſe on only one of them a direct collegiate ſettlement, the others might furniſh exhibitions for a certain number of ſcholars upon their removal to the Univerſity, and I am confident, that very ample means would be found for a liberal arrangement of this ſort.

I muſt now take notice of a doubt that is ſtarted in reſpect to the propriety or advantage of ſending this additional ſucceſſion of ſtudents to the Univerſity of Dublin, wherein the numbers are already much greater than can confeſſedly, under the preſent regulations, be ſufficiently attended to. Many additional circumſtances of very great weight, and which may have future important conſequences, are adduced as arguments in favour of a new college or univerſity to be eſtabliſhed in ſome central part of the kingdom, to which, perhaps, the ſchool of Armagh ſhould be the immediate nurſery of ſucceſſion, whilſt leſſer ſources of ſupply might be derived from Enniſkillen, Cavan, Raphoe, and other preſent inſtitutions.

I cannot, however, introduce any propoſition for a meaſure of ſo much conſequence and novelty as the eſtabliſhment of a ſecond univerſity, without ſome expreſſions of diffidence, or rather of avowal, that I am not enabled to ſpeak of it with the authority *of entire and univerſal approbation*; although I would not diſguiſe the force of conviction, with which my own mind is impreſſed, in favour of ſuch an addition to the general ſyſtem.

It will not be imagined that any idea of injury or diſcredit to the Univerſity of Dublin can have originated this propoſition. I am glad, on the contrary, to take this opportunity of declaring my conviction that her celebrity is a juſt conſequence of her intrinſic excellence, and that in effect it muſt be very difficult to contrive ſuperior means

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in moſt branches of ſcience, for the compleat education of young men who will ſeek to avail themſelves of ſuch opportunities, than thoſe which are exemplified in Trinity College. The hopes of reputation and ſucceſs, which the new eſtabliſhment may entertain, can indeed be chiefly founded in the reſolution of an earneſt endeavour to emulate in practice the excellent principles and noble ſyſtem of the original. The only hopes which it can entertain of materials to work upon will be placed in the probability of attracting and detaining thoſe diſciples, whoſe ſituation, circumſtances or prejudice would not have allowed them to enter into the ſociety of the capital, and who therefore would have either languiſhed in their progreſs without any ripening inſtruction, or have been tranſplanted into a leſs natural or kindly ſoil, and forced into maturity by ſuppoſititious warmth. They may indeed both ſhine with attractive luſtre, and be revered for their genial influence on the ſons of men: The greater luminary with no diminiſhed ſplendour, becauſe it may lend ſome rays of its ſuperior brightneſs to give light and beauty to a ſecondary planet. But although ſeveral reaſons have induced me to be confident of the propriety and advantage of this meaſure, it may be unneceſſary to urge them here in detail, as the principal object of them all is the improvement and nearer perfection of the general ſyſtem, by a wider diffuſion of learning and ſcience throughout the kingdom. Do not then, at the ſame time that you give the moſt generous latitude to a great and liberal principle, confine your efforts

efforts for its accompliſhment within narrow or partial limits. Give to your fellow-ſubjects, in every region of your country, all the honourable and happy means you can of lifting up their heads, by crowning them with the ſuperior qualifications and endowments of learning. I ſhould not conſider the probable effects of ſuch a meaſure in the favourable light in which it now appears to be, if we might not venture to reckon as one of them the very improvement, inſtead of impair of the excellencies and reputation of Trinity College. It has been frequently and forcibly urged in argument among us, that Great Britain ought not to have any reluctance to admit Ireland to a full ſhare of all her advantage to trade and manufacture, becauſe her capital, her credit, her experience muſt ever preſerve to her the ſuperiority ſhe now enjoys, although ſome accidental circumſtances of local ſituation and convenience give a ſpecious appearance of advantage to Ireland, and that the effect of their competition would only conduce to their common aſcendancy over foreign rivals. May not this reaſoning be applied with ſtrict conſiſtency to the point before us? The capital, credit and experience of the preſent Univerſity are ſufficient bulwarks to her acknowledged rank, and it can be of no more diſadvantage to her than to the public, that the ſpirit of competition may at once induce her to fortify thoſe ſecurities to her own internal fame and pre-eminence, and create an additional power of defence againſt foreign invaders and ſeducers.

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It will never be, of courſe, ſuppoſed that England is here intended to be included under the title of *foreign ſeducers*. So many reaſons operate in favour of the intercourſe between the two countries, which is cheriſhed and ſtrengthened by the means of a common education, and of the connections formed thereby among the principal perſons of both, that I truſt nothing will ever occaſion a ſerious interruption to the continuance of that inter-communication of inſtruction, but that it may be improved by new ſources of mutuality. The great ſchools in England and her univerſities will, I truſt, ſtill be frequented by very many of the young men of the firſt families of this kingdom; and ſeveral circumſtances of beneficial conſideration may, upon the improved ſettlement of your ſeminaries of education, draw from the other ſide a pleaſing acceſſion of ſtudents into them. The reciprocities of this happieſt kind of intercourſe and connection may therefore grow and multiply upon the ſucceſsful advancement of this ſyſtem, and may tend thereby to draw the two countries ſtill cloſer to each other by a bond of moſt intereſting, yet moſt diſintereſted attraction, in aſſimilating their manners and their habits, conciliating their prejudices and ſuſpicions, and concentrating their ambition an daffections.

The improvement of the new ſchools, and the very marked degree of proficiency in claſſical learning, to which the ſcholars who ſhall be educated in them, will probably have been advanced upon their removal to the univerſity, may, and

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I conceive, ought to have the effect of aboliſhing ſome of the loweſt claſſes which at preſent form a part of the courſe of ſtudy in the college of Dublin, for the purpoſe of leading to a more perfect knowledge of the learned languages. They may, under preſent circumſtances, be perhaps a neceſſary proviſion againſt the defective ſtate of information in which the majority of ſtudents are now ſaid to enter into the univerſity; but it will ſoon, I truſt, become apparent, that we ſhall not be diſappointed in our dependance upon a more perfect preparation, by which the inconſiſtent medley of *ſchool-boy teaching*, with the higher lines of inſtruction, for the proper objects of academic ſtudy, may be diſpenſed with. There ſhould not certainly, however, be wanting ſufficient means of exerciſe, or conſtant incitement to competition in the diſplay of claſſical accompliſhments, in order to confirm or enlarge the invaluable poſſeſſion of them.

But I have already anticipated the obſervations which I ſhould otherwiſe have made in this place, upon what appeared to me to be the true properties and diſtinctions, the ſeparate gradations, but yet alſo the uſeful co-operation of antient and modern learning in our ſchools and at the univerſities. I will not repeat them here, or run the riſk indeed of ſeeming to preſcribe any opinion at all upon the executive detail of ſuch matters, which, I hope, will be put under the direction of much abler adviſers, for a juſt arrangement and diſtribution under their ſeveral diviſions in the general ſyſtem; and I am therefore naturally led to make this additional

ditional reflection, which it will not be improper to expreſs to you, that as the moſt expeditious arrangements for the accompliſhment of the reform propoſed for the ſchools in the north, and for the foundation of their connection with an univerſity, will yet require ſome interval of time, we can hardly lay our account for an earlier commencement of any regular ſucceſſion from them to the new college, than at the expiration of five or ſix years. It may therefore, in forming plans for the inſtitution and endowment, and for the internal compoſition and regulation of the various members of this eſtabliſhment, be a material guide to the choice of meaſures and reſources, that it ſhould at once be reſolved to open it at the end of ſix years from the paſſing of the reſolution, or of a bill in the next ſeſſion of parliament.—— Under theſe circumſtances there will be a larger field for the preparation and acceſſion of ways and means, as well as of other aſſiſtance. I would, however, in the firſt view, conſider the whole ſcheme and the proviſion for it as an object of parliamentary care and inſurance, and thus enquire into the amount of expence in all reſpects, as if it was to be an unqualified charge upon the public. And indeed, although I hope that other reſources may be diſcovered and applied for this purpoſe, yet I cannot but indulge a confidence, that the public would not heſitate to a pprove the diſpoſition of their repreſentatives, ſhould it lead them to adopt the meaſure with the whole of the expence. Every motive of regard for the wiſhes of my Lord Lieutenant, and for my own credit, and

every conſideration which I truly feel for the country, in the eaſy as well as advantageous completion of my plan, naturally impel me to look out with anxiety for every collateral and adventitious ſource of ſupply, which may facilitate the ſucceſs, and lighten the charge of its operation, for the general uſe and enjoyment of the community. I have not been altogether diſappointed in my reſearches, and I would thus far venture to riſk the expreſſion of an hope, that unleſs I am much miſtaken in my idea of the nature and circumſtances of the object I have in view, there do exiſt the poſſible materials for a fund ſufficiently ample to relieve you from the more immediate articles of expence, and to contribute in ſome degree to the future maintenance of theſe liberal eſtabliſhments. There has not yet, however, been opportunity entirely to ſcrutinize the expediency of this appropriation, or to take proper meaſures for obtaining the neceſſary concurrence and conſent, which there may be unforeſeen, but moſt ſatisfactory reaſons for with-holding, although indiſputably accompanied with the moſt gracious diſpoſition to yield an indulgent approbation.

The firſt object to which the attention will, of courſe, be directed, in looking to the execution of the plan, is the choice of a proper ſcite for the buildings, and for the neceſſary domaine which ſhould be annexed to them, both for the purpoſes of the inſtitution and for the privilege of excluſive juriſdiction. Perhaps ſome diſtrict under the circumſtances to which I have juſt now alluded,

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may be appropriated for the poſition of a foundation, which may be ſaid to originate under his Majeſty's gracious auſpices, and is to be devoted to the uſe and advantage of his grateful ſubjects. From all the preceding obſervations it muſt appear, that it ſhould be ſituated in one of the northern or north-weſtern counties, but it ſhould alſo perhaps approach as near as poſſible to the centre of the country, ſo as to afford the more convenient acceſs to a larger proportion of the kingdom. The commencement, in regard to buildings, may at firſt be neceſſarily ſmall, and the ſociety compoſed only of ſo many and ſuch deſcription of members as may be indiſpenſably neceſſary for the diſcharge of academic duties, both as tutors of the college and public profeſſors and examiners. It will be right for this purpoſe to take into conſideration, at a proper ſeaſon, as a guide to any executive proceedings, the number of officers ſuppoſed to be requiſite in any college at Oxford or Cambridge, and alſo the annual officers of the univerſity. I ſhould conceive that a provoſt, vice-provoſt, and eight or nine fellows, might be ſufficient for the firſt compoſition of the college; but I will not in this place venture to throw out any ideas which cannot, in their nature, be completely digeſted; I ſhall only obſerve therefore, that profeſſors will of courſe be appointed to give lectures in the moſt uſeful branches of learning and ſcience, and that by degrees the complete means of experimental inſtruction will be provided. By degrees alſo every other neceſſary improvement will be added, and an encreaſe, according to

the augmentation of the fund, may be made in the number of fellows, who will be wanting to act as public or private tutors, or as examiners for degrees, and in other capacities, in proportion to the aggrandiſement of the ſociety in reſpect to ſtudents, ſcholars, and other junior members, of all which, perhaps, there ſhould be the ſame deſcription as at other univerſities. It may, I confeſs, have the appearance of extending foreſight with too curious as well as too diſtant a precaution into the poſſible events of futurity, yet I cannot forbear, in a very few words, to hazard an opinion of an adviſeable regulation, in caſe the diſciples who may ſeek admiſſion into this new ſociety ſhould at any time be encreaſed, and be likely to continue in great numbers. I would preſume upon ſuch an occaſion to recommend the invitation of part of them into a ſecond college within the ſame univerſity, rather than to confine them all without ſuch an alternative, to the choice of this ſingle one. It is certainly not impoſſible to maintain a very regular diſcipline, and to communicate very excellent inſtruction among a very numerous body of ſtudents; but I am perſuaded that you will agree with me in this ſentiment, that there is greater probability of ſucceſs, both in the ſupport of good order, and in the ſuperintendency of their ſtudies, ſhould that body be compoſed of two diviſions, wherein emulation and competition would be likely to have an influence in addition to the means of cloſer attention and more particular obſervations. Public exerciſes and public examinations, for the attainment of public privi-

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leges and diſtinctions in the univerſity, would ſtill be continued in the ſame manner to the members of both ſocieties, under the management and arbitration of the common repreſentative body.

It muſt be ſuppoſed that I form my reaſoning here upon an entire perſuaſion, that a collegiate ſchool would be attached by connection and with ſucceſſion to this univerſity, in the ſame manner as that (the plan of which has been already ſubmitted to you) for the college of Dublin, and that therefore ſix of the ſcholars from ſuch ſchool would ſucceed annually from the time of opening the college, and that at the expiration of ſeven years the full complement would be formed of forty-two ſtudents.

It may here, perhaps, be adviſable to elect, inſtead of ſelect ſtudents, a certain number of junior fellows, who may continue in poſſeſſion of that ſituation until diſqualified by admiſſion to full fellowſhips, or by other ſpecified incapacitation. In addition to this diſtinct ſupply of particular diſciples to the new academy, it may be proper to found a certain number of ſcholarſhips, to which any under-graduate may be eligible upon real proof of merit and ſuperiority. The number of ſcholarſhips might naturally be encreaſed in the courſe of a few years, by various reſources, but chiefly by benefactions and bequeſts. A ſtill further acceſſion to this eſtabliſhment has already been ſuggeſted, to ariſe from ſome other endowed ſchools in certain parts of the kingdom, to which exhibitions may in future be annexed for the proviſion of meritorious ſcholars, during a certain

certain number of years at the univerſity. The dioceſan ſchools alſo, at leaſt in two provinces, may by degrees furniſh a new ſtock, and all of them from every quarter ſelected for their pre-eminence in talents and good ſcholarſhip.——The number of voluntary recruits cannot be eſtimated; but although at firſt perhaps only ſmall, they will probably have a rapid encreaſe, if the reputation of the college ſhould be advanced by experience of the good diſcipline and inſtruction eſtabliſhed and obſerved in it. But it is not ſo much from the mere circumſtance of numbers, that we are to judge of the faireſt title to celebrity and veneration, as from the ſuperior information and accompliſhments which may be manifeſted by the ſucceſsful diſtinction of its members in the various purſuits of active life.

I will here put a ſtop to my remarks upon this diviſion of the ſyſtem, conſcious of having been occaſionally and inſenſibly betrayed into more detail than is conſiſtent with the nature or deſign of the preſent ſketch of a general outline, which alone I profeſs to attempt, as introductory of more minute and correct adjuſtment under abler adviſers and directors. I turn therefore to the ſource from whence theſe are to be drawn, the qualifications by which they are to be diſtinguiſhed, the duties they are to perform, and the juſt tribute of reward which ſhould attend them. I now, of courſe, Sir, am to requeſt your attention to the ſixth part of the general plan.

Upon this ſubject I will not heſitate to communicate to you the full extent of my ſentiments and

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expectations, although the propoſition which I ſhall venture to ſubmit to you at preſent does not go the length to which I think and hope this meaſure may be ultimately and moſt beneficially advanced. I am ſo much aware of being myſelf liable to be hurried away by too ſanguine expectations of ſucceſs to this extenſive ſyſtem, and of being therefore tempted to form projects too high and extravagant, for the commencement of a meaſure, whoſe object ſhould probably be at firſt more humble, and only calculated for gradual enlargement and perfection, that I purpoſely forbear from riſking propoſitions of the advantageous tendency of which however I am not the leſs convinced. My objects in the preſent inſtance would be firſt to preſerve ſuch parts of this ſyſtem as may, by experience, be found to be of public utility, in a continued ſtate of purity and perfection, which I conceive to be impoſſible without a conſtancy of judicious and honourable inſpection. I would, in the next place, ſeek to intereſt thoſe who are to be engaged in the moſt uſeful parts of executive duty, to make extraordinary efforts for the ſucceſsful accompliſhment of their reſpective charges; and I ſhould be truly ſolicitous to be able, if poſſible, to unite both theſe important purpoſes in one ſimple arrangement.——When I would therefore recommend to you the appointment of certain perſons of ſuperior qualifications, with the immediate deſign of forming plans and regulations for the different parts of the ſyſtem, I would not conceal from you my further idea of employing them as conſtant inſpectors

tors and examiners of various ſeminaries of education, and of the reſpective conduct and proficiency of the ſeveral teachers and ſcholars. With the ſame unreſervedneſs I declare to you alſo my additional opinion, that an eſtabliſhment might properly be formed for perſons of this deſcription, which would at the ſame time anſwer the juſt and deſirable purpoſe of providing a happy retreat for thoſe deſerving veterans, who ſhall have devoted to the duties of the other departments in this general ſervice, the zealous employment of their time and abilities.

The duties therefore which I would propoſe ultimately to allot to them, may be in a great meaſure learned from their title of inſpectors and examiners, and theſe, if faithfully performed, will be of great delicacy and exertion, and of moſt decided advantage to any plan for the improvement of education. They ſhould be frequently employed in making the circuit of the kingdom, and viſiting all the dioceſan ſchools, and the collegiate and other ſchools, under the protection of government, to which any exhibitions for the benefit of ſcholars at either univerſity ſhould be annexed. They ſhould make the ſtricteſt enquiries into all circumſtances of material conſequence reſpecting the diſcipline, good order and œconomy obſerved in theſe ſocieties, and be ſatisfied of the ſufficiency and conduct of thoſe perſons to whom the care of the eſtabliſhments in various reſpects ſhall have been entruſted. They ſhould inſpect their accounts and expences, and certify the expediency and propriety of them. They ſhould enquire

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generally into the ſtate of the ſchool, with regard to the numbers, diſtinctions and merits of the ſcholars, and ſhould particularly inform themſelves of the qualifications of thoſe boys who may be upon the ſeveral foundations, and candidates to ſucceed to ſtudentſhips, exhibitions, or other beneficial proviſions at either univerſity. They ſhould hold public and ſtrict examination of the boys, with the aid of their maſter, and perhaps with two or more aſſociates either from Trinity College or the New College (as the caſe may be, that to the one or the other the boys may be eligible for the ſeveral reſpective advantages which I have juſt mentioned.) They ſhould place the boys of the higheſt claſs in the order in which they ſhould ſucceed to ſuch vacant ſituations at the Univerſity. All the examiners ſhould of courſe be under the bond of an oath to make a juſt deciſion, and report according to their beſt judgment and information. Theſe viſitors, acting thus in conjunction with deputies from the two univerſities, might form the common centre of every learned body of this ſort in the kingdom.

But I confeſs myſelf to be anxious in the firſt place to fix the beſt preſent means of a general, impartial, judicious, and liberal inveſtigation and arrangement of the whole queſtion of education, and then to uſe the ſame inſtruments, if poſſible, in preſerving the regularity and conſiſtency of the ſyſtem, and in guarding and encouraging the progreſs and improvement of all the parts. I would make their appointment the earlieſt object of attention, as the perſons immediately choſen upon

this occaſion ſhould be employed forthwith in forming plans, regulations, ſtatutes and other neceſſary documents for the ſeveral different ſeminaries, or claſſes of ſeminaries of education, intended to be inſtituted throughout the kingdom; and ſhould alſo perhaps be occupied in a general ſurvey of the actual ſtate of inſtruction in all parts of this country, particularly in dioceſan ſchools and ſchools of conſiderable endowment and diſtinction. I have no ſcruple to declare my opinion, and indeed I have already declared it, that it would be expedient not to confine our ſearch to this kingdom alone for the moſt proper perſons to fill theſe ſituations, but that on the contrary many eſſential reaſons conſpire to direct the choice of the greater part of thoſe to be in the firſt inſtance employed in this ſervice from England: Men who are or have been engaged in either of the univerſities, or in ſome of the great ſchools in that country, in teaching the ſeveral branches of literature and ſcience. Theſe ſituations ſhould indiſputably be made very reſpectable, and provided with a liberal ſupport, ſo as to render them objects of eligibility, even to thoſe who might at preſent be invited to them, but certainly objects of emulation in future for the beſt ſcholars and moſt ſcientific men in the kingdom. It may however perhaps be neceſſary, in order to attract perſons of diſtinguiſhed eminence to this ſervice, for the preſent moſt important buſineſs of eſtabliſhing and regulating the general ſyſtem, that an additional conſideration beyond that of the ſalary or income to be regularly eſtabliſhed, ſhould be held out to them.

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By theſe means the immediate tendency of the propoſition, which I ſhall make to you, would be fully accompliſhed. But in carrying forward my ideas to the future completion of that advantageous eſtabliſhment to which I have before alluded, and to which the aſſociation of perſons of this deſcription might make a proper foundation, I have conceived the propriety of forming a ſmall college, whoſe members ſhould be all fellows, not confined to the profeſſion of the Church, but choſen for their ſuperior knowledge and learning, not only in claſſical ſtudies, but in every ſpecies of literature and ſcience. A happy and honourable aſylum, not however entirely deſtitute of employment, might here be provided for the maſters and aſſiſtants of the ſeveral ſchools, who ſhould have dedicated the vigour of their life to the ſervice of the public, and the ſevere labour of adminiſtering inſtruction to their children. I am confident that it would tend ſo much the more, even from this moment, to the advancement of learning, and the encouragement of ſtudious emulation. Conductors of education can ſeldom be active and laborious in diſcharging their duty when they are advanced in life; and removing them from their office is often detrimental and ruinous; perhaps therefore the maſters of certain ſchools ſhould ſucceed by ſeniority, or ſhould at leaſt have the option of ſucceeding upon a vacancy to theſe ſituations: ſome of them might be ſtill competent to engage in the buſineſs of viſitation and inſpection, although no longer able to endure the conſtant fatigue and vexation of daily teach-

ing. They might thus in the end be made to take an eſtabliſhed form, and to conſiſt of a preſident or provoſt, a vice-preſident or vice-provoſt, and as many fellows as might not only be judged requiſite for the perfect diſcharge in their turns, of a very ſerious and important duty, but as within the compaſs of the funds which ſhould be hereafter contributed, might be thus rewarded upon the juſt pretenſion of their paſt ſervices.——The general objects of expence of ſuch a body, and of the proper allowance for each member of it, ſhall not make a part of my preſent propoſitions to you.

Thus much however, I muſt venture to ſay, that liberality ſhort only of profuſion, would in ſuch a caſe reflect a credit upon the nation, and could not after all within a proper amount, become an object of any great annual charge, and certainly be as nothing in compariſon of its account in public utility.

It ſhould, for many reaſons, be made a great object of diſtinction and advantage to be choſen a member of this ſociety, but every poſſible guard ſhould at the ſame time be provided againſt temptation, to evade the duties, becauſe of the ſweets of the ſituation. I ſhould indeed hope that deſirable and honourable as this eſtabliſhment may be, it may ſtill have its greateſt influence in urging the members of it to the moſt laudable performance of their truſt, by the proſpect of objects of ſtill higher attraction. It would be happy for the country if theſe literati ſhould not only ſucceed in promoting emulation among the youth

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of the kingdom, by making the beſt choice among the ſtudents of various degrees for the reward of diſtinction, and ſupport in their courſe of education, but that they ſhould themſelves become, by their merit and exemplary conduct, ſucceſsful candidates for the higheſt ſituations of honour and emolument in their ſeveral lines or profeſſions.

In addition to the public benefit which might be derived from the circuits of ſuch inſpectors, among the ſchools of the kingdom, and perhaps from their aſſiſtance by periodical examinations and lectures in the univerſity, there might be expected other advantages to reſult from the co-operating ſtudies and communications of ſuch a body of learned men, under ſuch circumſtances. Future eminent publications might be given to the world from an eſtabliſhment, which, although requiring much occaſional exertion and diſplay of active abilities, would alſo allow many intervals of leiſure, for the calmer exerciſe of the mind, in the uſeful ſearch of information and general erudition.

I have not allowed myſelf to entertain the romantic expectation, that the whole of this plan can be now carried into execution, but being thoroughly convinced of the juſtice, liberality, and public utility of the meaſure, I muſt indulge a hope, that by degrees a treaſure may be found to make ſtill the addition of one and one more deſerving member to this fraternity of ſages; ſo that a ſufficient number of active colleagues may be enſured for the due performance of the important duty, which is to be required of them, and that

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the veteran emeriti may be left to the enjoyment of eaſe and tranquil ſtudy.

I have now only to return to the more humble idea, with which I began the introduction to this diviſion of the plan, and to ſubmit to your conſideration the propriety of countenancing the appointment of three or four learned men, who ſhould aſſiſt in the immediate formation of plans and regulations for the ſeveral eſtabliſhments of improved education, and ſhould be inveſted with a moſt honourable truſt, as the regular inſpectors and examiners of them.

I ſhall not have occaſion to exhauſt much more of your patience, by an explanation of the ſeventh and laſt object in the ſyſtem, which in effect goes no further than to the preparation and arrangement of certain materials of information, by the help of which you are to form your ultimate deciſion upon the ſeveral projects which I have ſet forth with perhaps a tedious minuteneſs. It will only remain for me to lay before you the leading principles of them in the form of reſolutions, to which I hope, you may venture to give your ready concurrence and ſanction. I feel it however, to be impoſſible at this concluſion of my long detail, to cloſe my final obſervations upon the ſubject, without an attempt to offer here in a few words what I purpoſely avoided in the opening of the buſineſs, a ſincere apology for the trouble I have given to you, not by the introduction of the queſtion which you had deſired to be propoſed, but by the diffuſeneſs of my ſtatement of it; I could not indeed, perſuade myſelf to ſuppreſs any ideas

ideas which I thought might tend to excite in any degree a more circumſtantial conſideration of the ſubject, and to draw forth by that means a greater occaſion of well digeſted opinions and advice. Your kind and patient indulgence has allowed me an opportunity of touching upon almoſt all the points of any importance, which I could call to my recollection, and thought it neceſſary to obtrude upon your attention. It would at the ſame time be perhaps improper for me to withhold from you ſome other ideas, which have either occurred or been ſuggeſted to me, as naturally connected with, or immediately collateral to the conſideration of a general ſyſtem of education. I however adhere to my repeated declaration, that I ſhould confine my direct propoſition to ſuch objects as might appear to me to have a fair title to recommendation, on the ground of ſtrong neceſſity or of extraordinary advantage, with a ſafe proſpect of accompliſhment in regard to practicable regulations and juſtifiable expence. Under the impreſſion of thoſe ſentiments and reſtrictions, I have drawn the line for my own obſervance, in the ſcheme which I have ſubmitted to you; and in proceeding therefore to open to your view a more extenſive ſcene, I can have no other deſign, than to avoid the appearance of preſcribing a limit to your generoſity or diſcretion, which upon ſuch an occaſion, would naturally be encouraged to take a moſt liberal career. The juſt diſtinction however, will always occur of ſuch objects, as ſhould at all events have the precedence; and perhaps it may be right to con-

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tent ourſelves at preſent with the ſimple mention of ſome others, which may be introduced under the ſanction of a reſpectable recommendation for future reflexion.——It will of courſe be ſuppoſed, that during the interval from the firſt notice of this general ſubject to the preſent time, very many applications as well as ſuggeſtions have been made to me in favour of particular and partial ſpeculations, many of which would not only have been inconſiſtent with the large principles of the general ſyſtem already propoſed to you, but muſt be inadmiſſible upon any computation of our probable funds or deſcription of inſtitutions. I ſhall not think proper to detain your attention by the enumeration of them. There are others of a different nature, ſome of which have been offered to your notice by ſeparate introduction, and ought not to be diſmiſſed without ſome explanatory obſervation. A very honourable member has ſtrongly recommended to you, the prayer of a petition from the General Synod of the Preſbyterian Church, who requeſt the aid of parliament, for the ſupport of an academy, which is deſigned for the diſtinct education of their youth, under teachers of their own perſuaſion. It will not be ſuppoſed, after the open profeſſion of my ſentiments in regard to the liberal extenſion of the benefits of good education to the children of our fellow-ſubjects of all religious communions, I ſhould entertain any other doubts in this inſtance than what ariſe from the particular circumſtances of our real ſituation. Our plan even under many neceſſary reſtrictions is of wide extent, and the effort for

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even a gradual execution of it, muſt be attended with a very conſiderable charge upon the public. It is an experiment upon which at the ſame time, that I indulge moſt ſanguine expectations of ſucceſs, I cannot venture to look without an impreſſion of awe at its magnitude and importance, and of the diſcretion and delicacy to be uſed in the conduct of it. I have already propoſed to embrace within the participation of its general advantages in moſt reſpects, the youth of different religions, and I muſt of courſe wiſh to make it as free from exceptions as poſſible in favour of that ſect, between which and our own eſtabliſhed communion, the diſtinction is the leaſt remarkable. But I have withal no ſcruple to avow my decided opinion, that under all the circumſtances which I have repreſented, we have no reaſonable diſcretion or means for the creation of ſuch inſtitutions, upon any *mixed principle*, or indeed upon any other regular foundation, for a claim of preſent ſupport from the public purſe, than upon that of the religion of the ſtate. The reſpectability or the loyalty of his Majeſty's Preſbyterian ſubjects, upon which the honourable member has juſtly expatiated, are not called in queſtion by the declaration of theſe ſentiments, and I cannot but ſuppoſe, that they will readily perceive and acknowledge the evident propriety of forming theſe public eſtabliſhments, thus made in general open to all diſciples of all religions, upon the *ſingle baſis* of the eſtabliſhed church.

Other objects of particular deſcriptions have alſo been mentioned, and amongſt thoſe the College of Surgeons, with the favourable repre-

ſentation of ſome perſons, whoſe opinions certainly deſerve a great degree of attention, yet, I truſt, that they will be ſatisfied by the ſuggeſtion of thoſe obſtacles, which muſt at preſent inevitably oppoſe the too general extenſion of proviſions under this ſyſtem, to claimants whoſe pretenſions are founded only upon collateral relationſhip to it. The views however, and the purpoſes of this Infant Corporation, are directed by a principle ſimilar to that which appears to me one of the moſt eſſential recommendations of the propoſitions which I have announced to you. The College of Surgeons wiſh to put within the eaſy reach of young ſtudents in this country, the means of an improved education, in the immediate line of their moſt uſeful profeſſion; and therefore, although they have given way to advice againſt preſenting any petition to parliament for pecuniary aid, I think it a juſtice due to them, to make this favourable mention of their inſtitution, and to expreſs a hope that there may poſſibly ariſe ſome opportunity of giving encouragement to their purſuit, which may be of general benefit on ſeveral accounts to the country, and which may be promoted by a very ſmall effort of your liberality.

I will not allow myſelf to treſpaſs further upon your time. You muſt yourſelves hereafter be better able to judge, than I am at preſent to foreſee, the various objects of public utility, which may require and be entitled to the adoption of your generoſity and protection. I can have no motive for my ſuggeſtions, and no direction for my opinions,

nions, but the anxious deſire and ambition, as far as it may be in my power, (while I have any power) of contributing to the means of enlarged advantages to this country. I muſt not, I fear, indulge the hope of remaining your fellow-citizen, by more than a temporary *reſidence* in it, but my cordial ſolicitude for its welfare, which would be earneſtly exerted during a period ſo fortunate for me, will not be limited to the expiration of it.

The ſenſe of official duty will not give place to a weak influence upon my mind; when in a different ſituation, reſpect and attachment alone, ſhall impel me to cultivate the flattering occaſion of boaſting a connection with the intereſts of this kingdom, and proving myſelf, if poſſible, an uſeful as well as zealous inſtrument towards the ſucceſsful promotion of them. Sentiments of this nature indeed, have carried me upon the preſent occaſion, beyond the mere line of official duty in the humble ſhare which, under my Lord Lieutenant's directions, has fallen to my lot in the formation of this meaſure. Nor does he diſavow the ſelfiſh motive of ſeeking to ſecure to himſelf a treaſure of future gratification, in viewing, although at a diſtance, the compleat accompliſhment of his original object, to improve the genuine ſources of happineſs and proſperity to the people over whom he now preſides. I will now, Sir, with your permiſſion, ſubmit to you the ſeveral reſolutions, which I have prepared, for the different diviſions of the ſyſtem; and in confident hope of your favourable acceptance of my beſt intentions, I rely

alſo on your indulgent allowance to the defective performance of them.

Mr. *Orde* here concluded a ſpeech which had arreſted the attention, and attracted the admiration of the Houſe for three hours, with reading the following reſolutions:

1. Reſolved, *That it is the opinion of this committee, that it is expedient to reviſe the act of the twenty-eighth of Henry the Eighth, chapter 15th, for the eſtabliſhment of pariſh ſchools, and to make proviſions and regulations for aſcertaining a new ſcheme and rate of contribution towards their more effectual ſupport and improvement.*

2. Reſolved, *That it is the opinion of this committee, that it is expedient to eſtabliſh, by the aid and authority of Parliament, an annual fund, to be applied at the diſcretion of the Lord Lieutenant for the time being, for the purpoſe of gradually building or purchaſing, or otherwiſe providing proper ſchool-houſes, and conveniencies annexed thereto, in every pariſh or union within this kingdom, in which they may be requiſite, for the reſidence of a ſchool-maſter, and the free inſtruction of the poor.*

3. Reſolved, *That it is the opinion of this committee, that an humble addreſs be preſented to his Grace the Lord Lieutenant, requeſting his Grace to give directions that there be laid before this Houſe, on the firſt day of the next ſeſſion of Parliament, an exact return of the number and preſent ſtate of pariſh ſchools and ſchool-houſes throughout this kingdom; and alſo the particulars of all grants, donations, or other proviſions of any kind, in land*

or money, for the endowment of the ſaid ſchools, or any of them, or for the uſe of the ſchool-maſters of the ſame, or any of them reſpectively, with the ancient and preſent denomination and value of ſuch lands, and in whoſe occupation, and under what title they were held on the 25th of March, 1787.

4. Reſolved, *That it is the opinion of this committee, that it is proper and expedient to inſtitute and ſupport by degrees, at the public expence, one provincial ſchool or hoſpital, in each province within this kingdom, for the gratuitous maintenance and education of children in the eſtabliſhed religion, and in ſuch branches of learning and ſcience as may tend to qualify them with ſuperior advantage for the future exerciſe of various occupations in huſbandry, manufacture, trade, commerce and arts.*

5. Reſolved, *That it is the opinion of this committee, that it is proper and expedient to reviſe the act of the twenty-third of George the Second, chap. the 11th, to provide for the better regulation of charity ſchools, and to take effectual meaſures for improving and enlarging the benefits of the proteſtant charter ſchools, in connexion with the inſtitutions aforeſaid.*

6. Reſolved, *That it is the opinion of this committee, that an humble addreſs be preſented to his Grace the Lord Lieutenant, requeſting his Grace to give directions that an exact return be made to this Houſe, on the firſt day of the next ſeſſion of Parliament, of the amount, application and expenditure of the funds of every denomination under the care and management of the Incorporated Society for Proteſtant Charter Schools, and of the Governors of*

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Eraſmus Smith's ſchools, with an account of the different authorities by teſtament, charter, ſtatute, or otherwiſe, under which theſe applications and expenditures have been made, and a copy of the ſettled accounts, properly authenticated, of the incorporations aforeſaid, for three years laſt paſt.

7. Reſolved, *That it is the opinion of this committee, that it is proper and expedient to reviſe the acts of the twelfth Elizabeth, chap. 1ſt, ſeventh William the Third, chap. 4th, twelfth George the Firſt, chap. 9th, twenty-ninth George the Second, chap. 7th, for the eſtabliſhment and maintenance of dioceſan ſchools and ſchool-houſes, and to take proper meaſures, under authority of Parliament, for inſuring the due execution of thoſe acts, according to their true intent and meaning; and alſo to empower the Lord Lieutenant and Council to make new proviſions and regulations for the more effectual ſupport and improvement of the ſame.*

8. Reſolved, *That it is the opinion of this committee, that an humble addreſs be preſented to his Grace the Lord Lieutenant, requeſting his Grace to give directions that there be laid before this Houſe, on the firſt day of the next ſeſſion of parliament, accounts of the number and preſent ſtate of dioceſan ſchools and ſchool-houſes throughout this kingdom; and alſo the particulars of all grants, donations, or other proviſions of any kind, in land or money, made in conſequence of the above recited acts, or any of them, or in any otherwiſe whatever, for the endowment of the ſaid dioceſan ſchools, or any of them, or for the uſe of the ſchool-maſters of the ſame, in ſucceſſion reſpectively, or any of them, with the*

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ancient and preſent denomination and value of ſuch lands, and in whoſe occupation and under what title they were held on the 25th of March, 1787.

9. Reſolved, *That it is the opinion of this committee, that it is proper and expedient, by the aid and authority of Parliament, to eſtabliſh one or more great ſchool or ſchools, and to reform thoſe already eſtabliſhed in ſuch caſes as ſhall be found neceſſary, upon ſuch principles, and with ſuch proviſions and regulations, as may tend moſt effectually to anſwer the end of their foundation in public utility, by improving and facilitating to the youth of this kingdom the means of a perfect education, as well in ſuch ſchool or ſchools, as by eſtabliſhing an annual ſucceſſion of a ſelect number of the moſt meritorious ſcholars, with a ſuitable proviſion, to the Univerſity, for the future purſuit of learned profeſſions, and for the honourable diſcharge of the higheſt duties of the community.*

10. Reſolved, *That it is the opinion of this committee, that it is an object of great public concern that an exact enquiry ſhould be made, and information obtained, of the number and preſent ſtate of the ſeveral foundations within this kingdom, for the education of youth in claſſical learning, and that the true nature and value of their endowments ſhould be aſcertained, with the original appropriation and preſent diſpoſal of the funds, and how far the ſeveral duties and truſts directed and enjoined have been and are duly performed.*

11. Reſolved, *That it is the opinion of this committee, that the foundation and gradual endowment of a ſecond Univerſity within this kingdom, by the*

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aid and authority of Parliament, in addition to the preſent excellent eſtabliſhment of Trinity College in this capital, might conduce to the greater perfection of a general ſyſtem for the improvement of education, and to the wider diffuſion of learning and ſcience throughout the nation.

12. Reſolved, *That it is the opinion of this committee, that it is eſſentially expedient, towards the ſucceſsful promotion of proper meaſures for the general improvement of education within this kingdom, that one or more perſon or perſons, not exceeding four in the whole, eminently qualified by their abilities and experience, ſhould be appointed by the Chief Governor for the time being, to aſſiſt in the preparation of plans and arrangements for the inſtitution and regulation of the ſeveral ſeminaries of claſſical learning propoſed to be eſtabliſhed and reformed.*

13. Reſolved, *That this Houſe will at the commencement of the next ſeſſion of Parliament, proceed to the immediate conſideration of ſuch further meaſures as may be requiſite for carrying the foregoing reſolutions into full effect.*

14. Reſolved, *That an humble addreſs be preſented to his Grace the Lord Lieutenant, requeſting that his Grace will be pleaſed to give directions for preparing plans of the neceſſary buildings and other arrangements for forming and eſtabliſhing the ſeveral ſpecies of ſchools and ſchool-houſes, and ſuitable conveniencies to be annexed thereto, with eſtimates of the expence thereof, diſtinguiſhed under ſeparate heads, and accompanied with obſervations reſpecting ſituations, and other circumſtances moſt proper for the ſame.*

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The reſolutions being read,

Mr. *Stuart*, of Killymoon, roſe not, he ſaid, to contradict or oppoſe any thing that had fallen from the Right Honourable Secretary, but to declare himſelf at the moment unable to give an opinion on it; he therefore wiſhed for a little time to give it conſideration. If he was now to be forced to decide, there was certainly much to approve—but there might be alſo ſomething to condemn.

Mr. *Orde* explained that he intended nothing final in the preſent ſeſſion, relative to the ſyſtem now propoſed; his idea was, to have the reſolutions paſſed through the committee, in order to enable him to have them printed; early in the next ſeſſion they might be taken up; and between this and that, gentlemen would have full time and opportunity to give them due conſideration.

Mr. *Browne*, of the College, ſaid that he thought it unreaſonable, if not haughty, to call upon gentlemen to give their aſſent, *inſtanter*, to a long elaborate detailed ſyſtem of education:—the ſubject was ſo important and ſo difficult, that it had occupied the mind of the propoſer for two years, and yet he had called upon them to determine on the utility of it in as many hours; for his own part, he had hardly had time to write down a ſmall ſketch of the ſcheme, but was utterly incompetent to give an immediate opinion on ſo complicated a ſyſtem. Deferring the matter for

a few days would not give much relief, for the nation ought to have many months to conſider ſuch a novel and comprehenſive ſcheme. For another reaſon he could not give an immediate aſſent—it would be a breach of truſt to his conſtituents; the Univerſity were deeply concerned, and he had no time to aſk their opinions. In a matter of education, the Univerſity might have expected to be conſulted, and the neglecting to do ſo was a freſh inſtance of that diſreſpect which coxcombs from Eton and Weſtminſter were too apt to ſhew them. He denied the ſuperiority of the ſcholars of England in the ſciences—he denied their ſuperiority in real ſubſtantial claſſical learning. The only advantage they had was in ſome ornamental appendages, ſuch as making Latin nonſenſical verſes, which many of them could do with much facility from practice, while, in reality, they were much inferior ſcholars to thoſe who had not the ſame knack. He did not deny that it would be better if our ſchool-maſters, beſides inſtructing our youth to tranſlate and underſtand the languages thoroughly, would render them a little more verſed in Proſody and writing Latin verſes.

The *Secretary of State* ſaid he had ſeconded the preliminary motions of the laſt ſeſſion, and thought it an honour to co-operate in an arrangement of ſuch great public utility as the propoſed regulation relative to ſchool education. That part of the ſubject claimed his approbation and applauſe,

applauſe, and deſerved his warmeſt acknowledgements, as a man officially connected with the education of the country. He beſtowed much eulogium on the manner of ſtating this ſubject, and ſaid, in the comprehenſive view which the right honourable mover had taken of it, he had diſplayed brilliant abilities, extenſive information, and great goodneſs of heart, and that this kingdom would ever have reaſon to remember with gratitude the adminiſtration in which ſuch noble plans were formed for the general good. He obſerved on the different inſtitutions propoſed, and ſaid it was neceſſary, and would be highly uſeful, to review the ſeveral ſtatutes relative to pariſh and dioceſan ſchools, to enforce the execution of thoſe ſtatutes, and provide an Engliſh ſchool in every pariſh, and a Latin ſchool in every dioceſe.—— The provincial ſchool he thought a new and a great idea, and believed it would be attended with ſingular national advantages; but the part of the ſcheme moſt within his province was the collegiate ſchool, from which the Univerſity would derive great benefits. That ſuch a ſchool would introduce habits of compoſition in the learned languages and in our own, and that at preſent young men came to the Univerſity not ſufficiently inſtructed in thoſe reſpects. For the purpoſe of promoting thoſe objects, he wiſhed that the election of ſelect ſtudents ſhould be made in the following manner: A public examination to be held in the College-hall by the Provoſt and Senior Fellows of ſuch of the King's Students as ſhall have taken batchelor's degrees, and ſhall offer themſelves

ſelves as candidates; which ſhall continue for four days, from eight to ten in the morning, and from two to four in the afternoon of each of theſe days. The examination on the firſt day, in the morning, to be in Greek and Latin Epic poetry; in the afternoon, in the Greek and Roman orators. On the ſecond day, in the morning, in the Greek drama and Roman ſatiriſts; in the afternoon, in the Greek and Roman hiſtorians. On the third day, in the morning, in Engliſh proſe; in the afternoon, in Engliſh poetry.—The examination to be critical, with a particular attention to the ſtile and diſtinguiſhed excellencies of the ſeveral authors, and an inveſtigation into the hiſtory of each language, and its gradations in improvement and decline; and that the characters of the examiners, as well as the candidates, ſhould be more at ſtake, the whole examination is propoſed to be in Engliſh. On the fourth day, in the morning, the candidates to write compoſitions in Greek and Latin poetry and verſe, on ſubjects to be given by the examiners, and in their preſence; and in the evening, in like manner, in Engliſh poetry and proſe. Previous to the election each examiner to be ſworn to elect the perſon beſt qualified, according to the beſt of his judgment; and this election he propoſed to be annual. He ſaid that by ſuch an inſtitution a taſte for claſſical learning, compoſition and polite literature may be more generally diffuſed through the kingdom. He could not, however, agree in the idea of a new univerſity. He was ſworn to preſerve, as far as was in his power, and by law he could,

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all the rights and privileges of the College of Dublin, and would conſider what they were, how they had been exerciſed, and whether it was juſt, or for the public benefit, that they ſhould be infringed. By the charter of Queen Elizabeth it was granted to this college, that ſhe ſhould be for ever thereafter the mother of an univerſity, which grant is recited and confirmed by the charter of King Charles the Firſt, which alſo contains a new grant to the college of the ſame tenor, by which he apprehended it to be the intention, that whenever it ſhould be thought neceſſary to found other colleges, they ſhould all ſpring from her as their parent, and that ſhe ſhould be the ſole univerſity. That this was the intention may be collected from the act of ſettlement, 14th and 15th Ch. II. ch. 2. ſect. 219. which gives power to the Lord Lieutenant, with the conſent of the Privy Council, to erect another college, to be of the univerſity of Dublin, which words ſhew the intention of the legiſlature that this college ſhould remain, though another ſhould be founded, the ſole univerſity. By thoſe charters, he ſaid, it was expreſsly provided that the ſciences ſhould not be publicly taught in any other part of Ireland, without the royal licence firſt had and obtained; meaning that there ſhould be no other college without the King's licence. He had not heard there was any ſuch licence. This right was conditional, that of being the ſole univerſity appeared to him to be abſolute. That thoſe rights and privileges of the univerſity of Ireland had been enjoyed, for near

200 years, highly to the advantage and honour of this nation, was univerſally acknowledged. The journals of both houſes contain repeated proofs of the ſignal merits of this learned body for a long ſucceſſion of ages;—its attachment to whig principles, and the proteſtant ſucceſſion, has been at all times diſtinguiſhed; and as to learning and ſcience he would aſſert, without fear of contradiction, there was not in Europe an univerſity of greater celebrity, of which her learned ſiſter univerſities in England bore the ampleſt teſtimony, and conſidered her as their equal, by admitting her graduates *ad eundem*, a favour extended to no other univerſity.

This body has not forfeited its rights—it has exerciſed its functions with the ſtricteſt attention to the principles of its inſtitution. Its degrees are conferred with great caution, and are therefore held in high eſtimation. Elections are made, and emoluments diſtributed with a degree of chaſteneſs ſuitable to the character of a great national ſeminary, founded for the promotion of learning, morals and religion; and at the fellowſhip examination there was a diſplay of deep and various ſcientific knowledge and erudition to be found in no other part of the globe. The rights of an univerſity have been exerciſed by this body highly to the advantage of the whole kingdom. Is it then juſt, or for the public good, that they ſhould be reaſſumed or infringed? He thought not, and affirmed, that this univerſity was found more than competent for every univerſity purpoſe of the kingdom, and conferred a greater number of degrees

grees than the number of perſons deſtined in this kingdom for the learned profeſſions, and for the characters of noblemen or gentlemen, required. In reſpect to emulation, he ſaid, there was more competition in this than in any other college, and that what Doctor Johnſon called the illumination of many minds, muſt fully irradiate a ſeminary conſiſting of 725 men, under the public eye, in a metropolis. He ſaid, that in this laſt circumſtance there were ſome diſadvantages, and many advantages; and obſerved, that the ſituations of the Engliſh Univerſities in ſmall towns expoſed the ſtudents to many inconveniencies, to which thoſe in a great city were not expoſed; and that he had heard it obſerved by gentlemen of that kingdom, that our country clergy had a poliſh and good breeding that ſome of their's wanted. He ſaid, univerſity education could be had by poor men on lower terms in a great city than in the country; becauſe in the former they ſeldom failed in obtaining a tuition, or the place of an aſſiſtant to a ſchool. He ſaid, if an univerſity was eſtabliſhed in the North, the other provinces would have the ſame claim, and the conſequence would be, that there would be ſeveral univerſities without one of name, or one univerſity only of credit, and that the others would fall into ruins. He recommended that they ſhould look before them, ere they advanced too far. Begin with ſchools; the education there was defective; but there was no complaint of any defect in univerſity education. When a ſecond collegiate ſchool ſhould be eſtabliſhed, conſider then, whether a ſecond

cond univerſity would be neceſſary? If Mr. Pitt ſhould propoſe a third univerſity in England, what would the univerſities and the people of that country ſay to him? and yet one was much more in proportion for Ireland than two for England. You have now a great univerſity, beware how you tamper with it. He acknowledged at the ſame time the obligations of that body to the preſent adminiſtration, and had every reaſon to be ſatisfied, that the right honourable gentleman had very good wiſhes for the proſperity of that body. He acknowledged that nothing deciſive was preſſed; but it was a ſtep to a meaſure which, in the preſent ſtate of this kingdom, was againſt his opinion.

Sir *Francis Hutchinſon* ſaid if the preſent plan was to be carried into effect, it would prove the moſt fatal blow that the proteſtant religion in Ireland had ever received. Certainly nothing would be more grateful to the ſociety *de propaganda fide* at Rome, than to hear that the proteſtant charter-ſchools were to be aboliſhed.

Mr. *Orde* ſaid he wondered that ſuch an idea could have entered the mind of the honourable baronet; for ſurely if ever any plan more ſtrong than another, in ſupport of the eſtabliſhed religion, had been propoſed, it was the preſent. An honourable gentleman had ſaid, that it was unreaſonable to expect he ſhould immediately underſtand a plan that had been two years forming. If a plan for the improvement of education had taken him up two years, it would have been time well employed, nor

would

would it have been a reaſon why it might not be eaſily underſtood; for that which oftentimes coſts the moſt intenſe pain and ſtudy, when brought to perfection, and produced to view, convinces the mind at firſt ſight. But the truth was, as he had before mentioned, that the ſtate of his health had not allowed him to conſider the ſubject till the preſent ſeſſion had commenced, and what time he had ſince been able to afford, the Houſe would eaſily judge. He again obſerved, that his preſent object was merely to be enabled to print the reſolutions, and to bind the Houſe to take them into conſideration hereafter; this, he hoped, would ſatisfy every gentleman who entertained a doubt of their utility, particularly his right honourable friend, (the Secretary of State) who would pleaſe to obſerve, that the reſolution concerning another univerſity was put hypothetically—*it may be expedient, &c.*—and if there were any bars of right, they would moſt undoubtedly prevent that part of the plan taking effect. As to the merits of the univerſity of Dublin, he declared that he thought it had a right to all and more than had been ſaid in its praiſe.

As to what he had advanced reſpecting the difficulty many perſons found in coming to ſtudy to the univerſity of Dublin, he was convinced it was not well founded. He did not mean that they were barred on any religious account, but that they found it highly inconvenient, nay in many inſtances impoſſible, to ſupport themſelves in the capital, diſtant from their friends and connections, who might be willing enough to aſſiſt them near home,

or under their eye, but were too apt to forget or neglect their wants when out of view. With reſpect to the country being overſtocked in ſome of the learned profeſſions, he well knew there was no art or ſcience in which a great number of candidates for fame or eminence did not unhappily fail of obtaining ſucceſs, it was impoſſible to calculate exactly the number of perſons that ſhould enter into any profeſſion, becauſe it was impoſſible to know, before trial made, who were fitted to excel in it. But even the unſucceſsful efforts of great numbers had a beneficial effect upon the ſtate; for though they failed of attaining the height of their aſpiring, yet in the attempt they generally qualified themſelves to fill the leſs elevated ſtations with propriety.

Mr. *J. Wolfe* ſaid, his opinion was, that the committee ſhould adjourn, and report progreſs. He thought it would be imprudent to give an opinion at this period of the ſeſſion, or to pledge the Houſe to a plan of education which they had not time to conſider. The ſeventh reſolution poſitively pledged the Houſe to adopt the ſyſtem. He ſaid, if two years ago the ſubject had been mentioned, if Miniſters had taken from that time to the preſent to conſider it, with what face could they now bring it forward the laſt day of the ſeſſion, and demand the concurrence of Parliament? The Right Honourable Secretary had ſaid, he had not conſidered the ſubject till this ſeſſion, yet in the former ſeſſion he had mentioned it, and in his ſpeech at the opening of this ſeſſion (for the

the ſpeech from the Throne was the Miniſter's) he had mentioned it, as a matter to be immediately taken up. Now putting all theſe circumſtances together, he aſked if there was not a little inconſiſtency?

The *Chancellor of the Exchequer* ſaid, as to any imputation of neglect, the plan that had been ſtated was the beſt refutation of ſuch a charge. Indeed, the full, clear and able ſtatement of the Right Honourable Secretary had made ſuch an impreſſion on the committee, that he was convinced they would be nearly unanimous if they were now called upon to decide; but they were not; the very act of going into a committee proved that no ſurpriſe was intended, as nothing done by a committee could be final; beſides, it was the ſpirit of every diſtinct reſolution to be ſubject to future review and conſideration.

An honourable gentleman had ſaid, that if deciſion was not neceſſary, nothing was neceſſary: but this he denied; for the reſolutions tended to enforce enquiry, and no man would ſay, that enquiry was unneceſſary. It had been ſaid, that this was a buſineſs of great difficulty, and ſome danger—he denied it. Was there any danger in correcting abuſes? If every man knew that the inſtitution of pariſh-ſchools had been neglected or abuſed, ought not the abuſe to be rectified?—Should Parliament fear to enter into the enquiry?—If every man knew that there were no ſchool-houſes, or places of reſidence for pariſh ſchool-maſters, ſhould Parliament be afraid to provide

them?—If every man knew that charter-ſchools, dioceſan-ſchools, and the endowments for free-ſchools had been perverted from their firſt intention, ſhould Parliament be afraid to declare the abuſe, and take meaſures for correcting it?—Nothing in the world could be more eaſy than to make general aſſertions, but he called upon gentlemen who were ready to make them, to ſtand forward and prove that any poſſible evil could follow from the enquiry propoſed. On the contrary, it was manifeſt that the right honourable gentleman who had ſo ably brought it forward, could have had no motive but a regard for the welfare of the people, ariſing from his own benevolent and liberal mind. Such handſome conduct in a ſtranger coming into the country, far from deſerving any invidious comment, called for public praiſe and gratitude.

Mr. *J. Wolfe* replied to the Chancellor of the Exchequer. His argument was, that the ſyſtem propoſed by Mr. Orde was ſo complicated, that it was impoſſible to underſtand it without much deliberation and ſtudy.

Sir *John Blaquiere* ſaid, he diſſented entirely from the opinion of the laſt honourable gentleman, as he thought it the leaſt complicated queſtion that ever he had heard propounded. It had been ſtated ſo ſimply, ſo fairly, and ſo forcibly, that it was impoſſible not to underſtand it; and he was convinced had it been propoſed in the Houſe, there would not have been a word ſpoken againſt it.

it. If then the right honourable gentleman, from a motive of candour, had preferred the mode of ſubmitting it to a committee, the committee would not act fairly in refuſing to let it appear in print. He reminded the committee, that they were not ſure of having the right honourable gentleman always amongſt them; miniſters ſometimes ſuddenly change;—he therefore exhorted them to graſp the benefits now offered, or perhaps they might not have another opportunity. One merit of the right honourable gentleman, he ſaid, was this—that though he did not profeſs to make luminous ſpeeches, yet he had certainly upon this occaſion made the moſt forcible, and, perhaps, the moſt liberal ſpeech that ever had been made within thoſe walls. It was ſomewhat whimſical, that a gentleman whoſe avocations were ſo multifarious, ſhould have turned his attention ſo cloſely to a very dry and difficult ſubject. It put him in mind of Sir Iſaac Newton, who, by way of relaxation from his mathematical reſearches, amuſed himſelf with undertaking a new ſyſtem of chronology:—Thus his right hon. friend in his hours of relaxation and repoſe (for Secretaries do not always lie upon roſes) had found out this amuſement of reducing public education to a ſyſtem; and he had brought it forward in a way ſo ſenſible and ſo forcible, that it was the fault of the Houſe if they did not reflect, that ſuch a gentleman might not always ſtand in ſuch a ſituation, and take advantage of the offer, which, if once ſet forward, would be beyond the ſupineneſs of future miniſters to injure.

Mr.

Mr. *Griffith*.—This, this is the ſponge which wipes out all the right honourable gentleman's political offences againſt this country; this is the act, which makes ample atonement for them all, and would were they even more numerous than they are; yet notwithſtanding that upon the inſtant conſideration which I have given the buſineſs, it appears to promiſe the greateſt benefits, I feel myſelf much embarraſſed in reſpect to the vote I ſhall give on the queſtion before you. If my honourable friend (Mr. Wolfe) perſiſts in his motion, that you report progreſs, I ſhall be obliged to vote with him, becauſe it would be extremely improper to aſſent to the moſt trifling propoſition in ſo ſhort a time as that which is now allowed us to decide upon one of the moſt important meaſures that was ever agitated within theſe walls: And yet I ſhould be extremely ſorry to take any ſtep which looked like oppoſition to a buſineſs, the outline of which I do moſt ſincerely approve. It has been my fate very frequently to differ from the right hon. gentleman who brought forward the plan now before us, and I have reprobated, in language as ſtrong as parliamentary decorum would permit, many of the late meaſures of that right hon. gentleman; and yet, Sir, I muſt confeſs, that if his adminiſtration had been ſtill more exceptionable, if that were poſſible, I ſhould think the preſent enlarged and liberal ſcheme a fair ſet-off for the whole of his political ſins againſt this country.

In following the right hon. gentleman through the various eſtabliſhments and arrangements which he

he propoſes to make, I find no traces of corrupt influence, nor any view towards the miſapplication of public money; I find nothing but the emanation of well-directed judgment, labouring to reform and civilize the lower orders of a people immerſed in the gloom of barbarous ignorance. The plan of the right hon. gentleman, therefore, as far as it extends, has my warmeſt approbation. I am ſorry, however, to find it does not go ſo far as the nation had reaſon to expect from his Majeſty's ſpeech, which recommended this meaſure, and from the ſpeech of the right hon. gentleman on introducing it. It does not extend to the education of the Roman Catholic and Preſbyterian youth of this country. It may be anſwered, that they are not directly excluded; but I ſay they are virtually ſo, unleſs paſtors of their own perſuaſion are appointed to inſtruct them. Some misjudging bigots complain of the alienation of the Roman Catholic clergy from the government of this country; they complain, however, without the ſmalleſt foundation. But ſuppoſing the allegation were founded, how does the preſent ſyſtem remedy the evil? Does it eſtabliſh ſeminaries for educating that clergy who are now forced to travel into foreign countries, to obtain even a moderate portion of inſtruction? Is it by educating the Roman Catholic youth in France or Spain that you will overcome their prejudices, or give them an attachment to the bleſſing of a free conſtitution?

I lament, therefore, that the plan falls ſhort of my expectation in this material point; but inaſmuch as it does not exclude them, it is one ſtep

towards

towards the abolition of bigotry, and for ſo much I approve it. I do not, however, relinquiſh the hope of ſeeing ſchools and colleges eſtabliſhed under the protection of this Houſe, for educating the Roman Catholic and Preſbyterian youth of Ireland; and if the right honourable gentleman will bring forward a plan for that purpoſe, or include it in the preſent one, I am fully perſuaded he will find himſelf firmly ſupported by every man in the nation.

Mr. *Orde*.—I thank the honourable gentleman, and aſſure him, that I have no other object but to put this buſineſs ſo far forward as to force it into future conſideration.

Mr. *Brooke*, of Donegal, ſaid he could not have a moment's doubt of adopting the principle of the right honourable gentleman's plan; his conduct in bringing it forward was highly meritorious, and deſerving of the thanks of the whole nation. He could not ſee how any gentleman could object to the plan, particularly as they were now only called upon to adopt the *principle*—*the detail* being a matter of future conſideration.

The queſtion was now put, that the committee adjourn, and report progreſs, but was unanimouſly negatived.

The queſtion was then put on each of the reſolutions ſeparately: they all paſſed without a ſingle diſſenting voice.

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The committee thereupon adjourned, and the Houſe being reſumed,

The *Solicitor General* made his report, which the Houſe ordered to be printed—and then adjourned.

MONDAY, APRIL 16, 1787.

PREVIOUS to the Houſe's agreeing to the report of the committee on Mr. Orde's plan, a converſation aroſe on that ſubject, in which

Mr. *Browne*, of the College, ſaid he muſt complain of the hardſhip of being called upon to approve propoſitions, which perhaps on a maturer conſideration, he might condemn before next ſeſſion. It was ſaid, gentlemen were not tied down; but how could they conveniently refuſe to execute next ſeſſion, if they approved during this? Notwithſtanding all that had been ſaid of the clearneſs and ſimplicity of the propoſitions, he was not yet able to ſee how far he might, by giving his aſſent, conduce to much ill and miſchief. It was doubtful yet, how far the ſyſtem tended to hurt the Proteſtant charter-ſchools, and to oppoſe their deſign, and the ſpirit of their inſtitution? whether new ſchemes, new funds, new expences, were wanting to anſwer the purpoſes of education? or whether the old ones, with a little new life and ſpirit infuſed into them, might not do, was not to

him ſelf-evident, on the ſhort view he had taken of the ſubject; provincial ſchools appeared very Utopian. Were perſons to be taught there to make ſhoes, mathematically, or to dig potatoes, geometrically, or to take the meaſure of a man for a coat, as Swift's philoſophers did at Laputa, with a quadrant. Then as to the great claſſical ſchool—he was by no means ſatisfied that a very great ſchool contributed much to learning.—— There are many ſchools in this kingdom, which produce excellent ſcholars. He was ſure a very great ſchool was hoſtile to morals: unleſs he was much miſinformed, boys at the great Engliſh ſchools are debauched at a very early age, and indeed, with all faſhionable vices to a degree ſcarce to be conceived. The right honourable gentleman ſeemed much to miſtake the ſtate of this country. We are not ſuch fops in learning as elſewhere. We are not ſo much accuſtomed to bring forward, in private company, a little ſmattering of quotation and general obſervation, as others do, to dazzle thoſe who are not quite ſuch great ſmatterers as themſelves. Nor are we ſo much accuſtomed in public perhaps, to weave chaplets of falſe flowers, to crown our own heads, or to pronounce declamations on *Doctrina vim promovat inſitam*, with as much pomp, as if our theme had been ſome newly diſcovered fragment of claſſic ore, and as if nobody had read Horace, till exotics came to teach it to us; but in ſolidity we were nothing deficient. Would any man ſay the clergy or the lawyers of this country were ignorant? Where were they bred? In this coun-

try.

try. Would any man ſay the judges of the land were ignorant? Where were they bred? Moſt of them in this country. The men at the head of affairs in this kingdom were almoſt all bred in this country. Would the right honourable gentleman accuſe them of ignorance? Why then ſhould he ſay, that for lack of learning the land periſhes; an obſervation which had been made general, without confining it, where it might have been juſt, to the loweſt orders.

He ſaid, he was a friend to the idea of our ſchools attending more to compoſition, and to their having one general plan of education. But who was to fix that plan? Not, perhaps, the Secretary of a Viceroy, who, by his own confeſſion, could not, in the midſt of all his avocations, and the noiſe and riot of a court, much attend, if he were ever ſo capable. It was rather inſulting to us, that perſons from England muſt teach us how to improve the education of the youth of the land, and the principal inſtructors of the riſing generation here ſhould not be thought worthy of being conſulted. Oxford indeed produced ſome miracles of learning; but arguments muſt be drawn from men on an average, and on an average in the ſciences we would not yield to them, and in claſſical learning, not in eſſentials. However, he believed the whole was a puff, to give eclat to Mr. Orde, and that there never had been any ſerious intention of executing the ſcheme. As to a ſecond Univerſity, he (Mr. Browne) declared he could not be againſt it, if there was any neceſſity; but he could ſee none. Here he went over

much the ſame ground which the Secretary of State had done on a former day, ſhewing the excellence of its inſtitutions, and that its ſituation in Dublin was, in many reſpects, an advantage. He concluded by ſaying, he could not poſſibly vote for the reſolutions, if that vote tended to take away the liberty of oppoſing them, if he ſhould think it right another ſeſſion.

When the reſolution, that another Univerſity *might* be uſeful, was read, Mr. *Browne* moved to amend it, by adding the words, "*or might not.*"

Sir *Francis Hutchinſon* ſpoke much againſt intrenching upon the Proteſtant charter-ſchools; but ſpoke in ſo low a voice that we could not collect the particulars of his arguments.

Mr. *Stuart* (of Killymoon) ſaid, as he did not think himſelf bound to adopt exactly every part of the right hon. gentleman's plan, he would not give it any oppoſition. There was, indeed, a great part of it moſt liberal and excellent----perhaps it had ſome defects; but they are by no means ſuch as would juſtify an oppoſition to the whole. One defect he feared was, that the benefits of education in the middle and higher ranks were to be confined to perſons of the church of England only; he might be miſtaken, he wiſhed the right hon. gentleman to explain.

Mr. *Orde* aſſured the hon. gentleman, that he had miſapprehended what he had offered on the point alluded to. Throughout the whole plan the benefits of education were to be equally imparted

to

to all without diſtinction of religion; but children of whatever diviſion, who were to be maintained as well as educated at the expence of the ſtate, ſhould according to his original poſition (the propriety of which, he truſted, would not be denied) be brought up in the eſtabliſhed religion of the State. As to the fears expreſſed by another hon. gentleman, that the Proteſtant charter-ſchools would be ſuffered to ſink, they could have no foundation in any thing that he had ſaid; on the contrary, he had expreſsly declared, that it was determined to maintain and improve them, to change them from being the ſeat of filth and wretchedneſs, and to make them comfortable aſylums in which poor children of a certain deſcription ſhould ſtill be received and educated; and that any boys of brilliant talents found there ſhould be advanced into the middle claſs.

Mr. *Stuart* (of Killymoon) declared, that the right hon. gentleman had perfectly cleared up his doubts; and that he was fully ſatisfied as to the objection he had ſtarted. He took this opportunity of mentioning to the right hon. gentleman, a petition he had the honour to preſent from the Preſbyterian Synod of Ulſter, reſpecting the education of their youth deſigned for the miniſtry of the Goſpel; as the Houſe was ſo empty he ſaid he would not, without the conſent of the right hon. gentleman, make any motion on the ſubject, but put him in mind that it was offered on behalf of four hundred thouſand dutiful and loyal Proteſtant ſubjects.

Mr.

Mr. *Orde* expreſſed a wiſh that the right hon. gentleman would not at this time urge that buſineſs forward, in which Mr. Stuart acquieſced.

Mr. *Molyneux*, in anſwer to what had fallen from Sir F. Hutchinſon, ſaid, that a doubt having ariſen in that worthy Baronet's mind concerning bequeſts that had been made to the Proteſtant charter-ſchools, he felt himſelf called upon, being the repreſentative of a perſon who had made very liberal bequeſts to that inſtitution; and he declared, that if he entertained a doubt that the charter-ſchools were to be injured, he would uſe every endeavour to fruſtrate the ſcheme; but he was ſo thoroughly convinced that there was no ſuch intention, but that on the contrary, the wiſe and liberal plan of the right hon. gentleman, for which he deſerved the thanks of the nation, tended as much to promote the object of the charter-ſchools as to improve the general ſyſtem of education throughout the kingdom, that therefore it ſhould have his moſt decided ſupport.

The reſolutions were then, ſeverally put, and unanimouſly agreed to by the Houſe, except that which relates to a ſecond univerſity. On that Mr. Browne moved his amendment, which, however, had no other ſupport than his ſingle vote;---the amendment being therefore rejected, the reſolution was put and carried without further oppoſition.

APPEN-

APPENDIX.

29 HENRY VIII. Chap. 15.

This act is entitled, *An Act for the Engliſh Order, Habite and Language.*

It begins with a preamble, ſetting forth, that

THE King's Majeſtie our moſt gracious and redoubted ſovereign Lord, prepending and waying by his great wiſdom, learning and experience how much it doth more conferre to the induction of rude and ignorant people to the knowledge of Almighty God, and the good and virtuous obedience which by his moſt holy precepts and commandments they owe to their princes and ſuperiors, than a good inſtruction in his moſt bleſſed laws, with a conformity, concordance and familiarity in language, tongue, in manners, order and apparel with them that be civil people, *&c. &c.*

It then proceeds to enact ſeveral regulations for the introduction and extenſion of Engliſh language, habits

habits and manners in Ireland; and in the ninth ſection enacts,

That every archbiſhop, biſhop, ſuffragan, and every other having authority and power to give order of prieſthood, deacon and ſub-deacon, ſhall at ſuch time as they or any of them doe give to any perſon or perſons any of the ſaid orders of prieſthood, deacon or ſub-deacon, give unto every perſon taking any of the ſaid orders of prieſthood, deaçon or ſub-deacon a corporal oath, that he or they ſo taking order as is aforeſaid, ſhall to the uttermoſt of his power, wit and cunning endeavour himſelf to learn the Engliſh tongue and language, and uſe Engliſh order and faſhions, if he may learne and attaine the ſame by poſſibility, in ſuch place and places where his cure or dwelling ſhall be; and further, ſhall endeavour himſelfe to move, endoctrine and teach all other being under his order, rule and governance, to accompliſh and performe the ſame; and that alſo, every ſuch archbiſhop, biſhop, ſuffragan, archdeacon, commiſſarie, and other having power and authority to admit, inſtall, collate, inſtitute or induct any perſon or perſons to any dignity, benefice, office or promotion ſpiritual, as is aforeſaid, ſhall at the time of the admiſſion, inſtitution, inſtallation, collation and induction of ſuch perſon and perſons to any dignity, benefice, office or promotion, ſpiritual, give unto the ſaid perſon and perſons ſo admitted, inſtituted, inſtalled, collated or inducted, a corporal oath, that hee and they being ſo admitted, inſtituted, inſtalled, collated or inducted, ſhall to his wit and cunning endeavour himſelfe to learne inſtruct and teach the Engliſh tongue to all and everie being under his rule, cure, order or governance;———and alſo ſhall keep,

keep, or cauſe to be kept, within the place, territorie, or paroch where he ſhall have pre-eminence, rule, benefice or promotion, a ſchole for to learne Engliſh, if any children of his paroch come to him to learne the ſame, taking for the keeping of the ſame ſchole ſuch convenient ſtipend or ſalarie as in the ſaid land is accoſtomably uſed to be taken.

It then proceeds to lay a penalty of 3*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* upon any archbiſhop, &c. who ſhall diſpenſe with the aforementioned oath at the time of conferring prieſthood, &c.; alſo penalties of 6*s.* 8*d.* upon prieſts, &c. for the firſt neglect of conforming to the oath; 20*s.* for the ſecond; and total loſs of benefice, office or promotion, ſpiritual, for the third.

This act not to extend to perſons bound to keep reſidence in any metropolitan, cathedral or collegiate church, perſons ſtudying in any univerſitie, and perſons being in the king's ſervice; that none but paroch prieſts or ſuch as ſhall have the ſervice of any paroch church under him or them, ſhall keep ſchole as aforeſaid, under penalty of 20*s.* for every yeare they ſhall omit the ſame.

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12 Eliz. Chap. 1.

This act is entitled, *An Act for the erection of Free Schools.*

FORASMUCH as the greateſt number of the people of this your Majeſty's realm hath of long time lived in rude and barbarous ſtates, not underſtanding that

Almighty God hath by his divine laws forbidden the manifold and haynous offences, which they ſpare not daily and hourly to commit and perpetrate, nor that hee hath by his holie ſcriptures, commanded a due and humble obedience from the people to their princes and rulers; whoſe ignorance in theſe ſo high poyntes touching their damnation proceedeth only of lack of good bringing up of the youth of this realm, either in publique or private ſcholes, where thro' good diſcipline they might be taught to avoid theſe lothſome and horrible errours, it may therefore pleaſe your moſt excellent Majeſtie that it be enacted, and be it enacted by your Highneſſe, with the aſſent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporall and the Commons in this Parliament aſſembled, and by the authority of the ſame, that there ſhall be from henceforth a free ſchoole within every dioceſſe of this realm of Ireland, and that the ſchoolemaſter ſhall be an Engliſhman, or of the Engliſh birth of this realm, and that the Lord Archbiſhop of Armachenen, the Lord Archbiſhop of Dublin, the Lord Biſhop of Meath, and the Lord Biſhop of Kildare, and their ſeveral ſucceſſours for ever, ſhall have the nomination, inſtitution and appointment of the ſchoole-maſters within their ſeveral dioceſſes from time to time for ever, that is to ſay, every of them in his own dioceſſe; and that the Lord Deputie, or other governour or governours of this realm, for the time being ſhall have nomination inſtitution and appointment, of all and ſingular the ſchoole-maſters in and for all and ſingular the other dioceſſes of this realm, (the four dioceſſes before-named except) from time to time for ever. The ſchoole-houſe for every dioceſſe to be builded and erected in the principal ſhire-town of

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the dioceſſe where ſchoole-houſes be not alreadie builded, at the coſtes and charges of the whole dioceſſe, without reſpect of freedomes, by the deviſe and overſight of the ordinaries of the dioceſſe, or of the vicars-general (ſede vacante) and the ſhiriffe of the ſhire; and that the Lord Deputie and other governour or governours of this realm for the time being, with and by the advice of the councell of the ſame, or more number of them, ſhall according to the qualitie and quantities of everie dioceſſe, appoint to and for every ſchoole-maſter ſuch yearly pencion, ſtipend or ſalarie, where none is already appointed, as he, with and by their advice, ſhall think convenient, whereof the ordinaries of every dioceſſe ſhall bear yearly forever the third part; and the perſons, vicars, prebendaries and other eccleſiaſtical perſons, of the ſame dioceſſe ſhall pay yearly forever the other two partes, by an equal contribution to be made by the ſaid ordinaries.

II. And bee it further enacted by the authority aforeſaid, That all churches, parſonages, vicarages, and other eccleſiaſtical livings that have come by any title, meane or conveyance to the poſſeſſion and ſeiſen of the Queen's Majeſtie, or any of her moſt noble progenitors, ſhall bee charged to this payment and contribution, in whoſe hands or poſſeſſion ſomever the ſame are or ſhall come.

25th WILLIAM III. Chap. 4.

This Act is entitled, *An Act to reſtrain Foreign Education.*

WHEREAS many of the ſubjects of this kingdom, have accuſtomed themſelves to ſend their children, and other perſons under their care, into France, Spain, and other foreign parts, not under his Majeſty's obedience, to be educated, inſtructed and brought up; by means and occaſion whereof, the ſaid children and other perſons have in proceſs of time, engaged themſelves in foreign intereſts, and been prevailed upon to forget the natural duty and allegiance due from them to the Kings and Queen of this Realm, and the affection which they owe to the eſtabliſhed religion and laws of this their native country, and returning ſo evilly diſpoſed into this Kingdom, have been in all times paſt, the movers and promoters of many dangerous ſeditions, and oftentimes of open rebellion. For remedy whereof,

Be it therefore enacted and declared by the King's moſt excellent Majeſty, by, and with the advice and conſent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons in this preſent Parliament aſſembled, and by authority of the ſame, that in caſe any of his Majeſty's ſubjects of this realm of Ireland, at any time after the end of this ſeſſion of Parliament, ſhall paſs, or go, or ſhall convey or ſend or cauſe to be conveyed or ſent, any child, or other Perſon, into any parts beyond the ſeas, out of his Majeſty's obedience, to the intent and purpoſe to enter into, or be reſident, or trained up in any

Priory,

Priory, Abby, Nunnery, Popiſh Univerſity, College or School, or houſe of Jeſuits or Prieſts; or in caſe any of his Majeſty's ſubjects of this kingdom, ſhall after the time aforeſaid paſs or go, or be conveyed, or ſent out of this kingdom, into any parts beyond the ſeas, out of the King's obedience, to the intent and purpoſe to be reſident, or trained up in any private popiſh family, and ſhall be in ſuch parts beyond the ſeas by any Jeſuite, ſeminary Prieſt, Friar, Monk, or other popiſh perſon, inſtructed, perſuaded or ſtrengthened in the popiſh religion, in any ſort to profeſs the ſame, or ſhall convey or ſend, or cauſe to be conveyed or ſent, by the hands or means of any perſon whatſoever, any ſum or ſums of money, or other thing, for, or towards the maintenance or ſupport of any child or other perſon already gone or ſent, or that ſhall hereafter go or be ſent, and be trained and inſtructed as aforeſaid, or under the name or colour of any charity, benevolence or alms towards the relief of any Priory, Abby, Nunnery, College, School or any religious Houſe whatſoever; every perſon ſo going, ſending conveying, or cauſing to be ſent or conveyed or ſent, as well any ſuch child or other perſon, as any ſum, or ſums of money, or other thing; and every perſon paſſing, or being ſent beyond the ſeas, contrary to the intent and meaning of this act, and being thereof lawfully convicted in manner and form hereafter mentioned, or upon any information, preſentment or indictment, for any the offences as aforeſaid, to be found by any jury of twelve men of the county or city, or town corporate, where ſuch perſon or perſons ſo going or ſending ſhall have any eſtate of inheritance, when he or they did ſo ſend or go, ſuch perſon or perſons ſo going or ſending

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ſhall be for ever diſabled, from and after ſuch finding, to ſue, bring or proſecute any action, bill, plaint, or information, in courſe of law, or to proſecute any ſuit in any court of equity, or to be guardian or executor, or adminiſtrator, to any perſon, or capable of any legacy or deed of gift, or to bear any office within the realm, and ſhall loſe and forfeit all his, her, and their goods, and chattles, which he, ſhe, or they or any other perſon or perſons have, or hath in truſt for him, her, and them, and ſhall forfeit all his, her, and their lands, tenements and hereditaments, rents, annuities, offices and eſtate of free-hold, and all truſts, powers and intereſts therein, for and during his, her, and their natural life and lives.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforeſaid, that if any information be given to any Juſtice of the Peace, that any ſuch child, or other perſon, ſum of money or other thing, is or are going, or ſent away, contrary to the tenor of this act; that then every ſuch Juſtice of the Peace, within the limits of his juriſdiction, is hereby authorized and required, forthwith, to cauſe to be brought before him, all ſuch perſons ſuſpected, or charged, to have offended therein; and ſhall examine the perſon or perſons ſo ſuſpected, or accuſed, without oath: And alſo ſhall examine any other perſon or witneſſes, upon ſuch his and their ſeveral and reſpective corporal oaths, concerning the ſame: And if, upon ſuch examination, it ſhall appear probable to ſuch Juſtices of the Peace, that ſuch child, or other perſon, ſum of money, or other thing, is or are gone or ſent away, contrary to the true intent and meaning of this act, then the ſaid Juſtices of the Peace ſhall bind the ſaid ſuſpected perſon or perſons, with ſufficient ſureties, and ſuch other perſons as he

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ſhall judge fit to give evidence: And the ſaid informer or informers, in recognizances of the ſum of two hundred pounds, or ſuch greater ſum or ſums, as to the ſaid Juſtice or Juſtices of the Peace ſhall ſeem reaſonable, with condition to appear at the next quarter ſeſſions of the peace, to be held for the ſaid county, where ſuch offence or offences is, or are ſuppoſed to be committed, or where the offenders did laſt reſide, or were taken, and not to depart the ſaid Court without licenſe: And the ſaid Juſtice of the Peace, ſhall, at the firſt ſitting of the ſaid Court of quarter ſeſſions, return the examinations and recognizances unto the clerk of the peace, in open court, who ſhall cauſe an information to be framed againſt ſuch perſon and perſons, or ſuſpected perſon or perſons, who ſhall inſtantly anſwer thereunto, and proceed to tryal thereon; and in caſe, upon ſuch tryal, it ſhall, by proof, appear to the ſaid Court of Quarter-Seſſions, that any perſon, ſum of money, or other thing, was, by him, her or them, ſent or conveyed, or cauſed to be ſent or conveyed, into any parts beyond the ſeas, out of his Majeſty's obedience; and in caſe, by ſuch proof, it ſhall appear probable to the ſaid court, that ſuch ſending or conveying, was contrary to the true intent and meaning of this act, then he, ſhe or they, ſhall take upon him, her or themſelves, the proof where ſuch child, or other perſon, ſo by them ſent, then is, and alſo to what intent and purpoſe ſuch ſum or ſums of money, or other thing, was or were ſent by him or them beyond the ſeas; and in caſe, any ſuch child or children, or other perſon or perſons, that ſhall go, as aforeſaid, contrary to the intent and meaning of this act, or be ſent or conveyed away, as aforeſaid, or any ſum or

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ſums of money, by way of exchange, or any other ways or means whatſoever, ſhall be ſent, after the time herein limited, beyond the ſeas into foreign parts, as aforeſaid, to any the intents and purpoſes aforeſaid, contrary to the deſign and intent of this act, that ſuch going, or ſending, ſhall be adjudged, deemed, and taken to be, going or ſending contrary to this act, unleſs the party or parties, denying the ſame, ſhall prove the contrary; or if, by failure of ſuch proof, or otherwiſe, upon examination, it ſhall appear to the ſaid Court of Quarter-Seſſions of the Peace, that ſuch offence or offences hath or have been committed contrary to this act, the ſame being entered on record, ſhall be a conviction, as well of the perſon or perſons ſo being ſent, as of the parties ſo ſending; and they, and every of them, ſhall forfeit and incur all the pains and penalties, and diſabilities, before recited and mentioned: The one moiety of all ſuch forfeitures to be to his Majeſty, his heirs and ſucceſſors, and the other moiety to him or them that ſhall ſue for the ſame, in any Court of Record, by any action, bill, plaint, or information, wherein no eſſoyn, protection, or wager of law, or more than one imparlance, ſhall be allowed."

Provided always, that if any perſon or perſons, againſt whom ſuch judgment ſhall be given, or pronounced, at ſuch General Quarter-Seſſions of the Peace, as aforeſaid, ſhall find him or herſelf aggrieved therein, it ſhall and may be lawful to and for ſuch perſon or perſons, reſpectively, to appeal to the Juſtices of Aſſize of the ſaid county, at the next Aſſizes, to be held for the ſame: Which ſaid Juſtices of Aſſize, are hereby authorized, in the ſame Aſſizes, to cauſe the ſaid proceedings, in the ſaid General Quarter-Seſſions of the Peace, to be brought before

before them, and there to review and examine the ſame, by ſuch ways and means as to them ſhall ſeem expedient, and to reverſe, alter and confirm the ſame, and every part thereof, as to juſtice ſhall appertain: And all and every officer and officers, in whoſe cuſtody or power ſuch proceedings and conviction ſhall be, at the time of ſuch inquiry by the ſaid Judge or Judges of Aſſize, ſhall obey the orders and directions of the ſaid Judge or Judges of Aſſize therein.

Provided always, that if any perſon be convicted of being ſent beyond the ſeas contrary to this act, by the conviction of the perſon ſending or convicting him, only, ſuch perſon, upon his return into this kingdom, ſhall, at any time within twelve months after ſuch his or her attaining the age of one and twenty years, upon his prayer, by motion to the Court of King's-Bench of this kingdom, be admitted to his tryal: And the Judges of the ſaid Court, are hereby impowered and required, forthwith, upon ſuch prayer, to cauſe an information to be exhibited againſt ſuch perſon or perſons, to which he or they ſhall plead: And, thereupon, the ſaid court ſhall proceed to tryal of ſuch perſon or perſons, by jury of the ſaid county where the ſaid Court ſhall then ſit: And the defendant or defendants, in ſuch caſe, ſhall, upon his or their tryal, be obliged to prove to what intent or purpoſe he, ſhe or they was or were ſent or conveyed beyond the ſeas; and unleſs he, ſhe or they ſhall make ſuch proof, whereby it may appear, that he, ſhe or they were not ſent or conveyed contrary to this act, it ſhall be taken for granted, that he was ſent contrary to this act, as though the ſame had been fully proved: And in caſe, upon his, her or their tryal, ſuch perſon

or perſons ſhall be acquitted, he, ſhe and they, ſo acquitted, ſhall be diſcharged of all the diſabilities, penalties, and forfeitures in this act, except his, her or their goods and chattels, and the profits of his, her or their lands, incurred and received before ſuch acquittal.

Provided alſo, that every ſuch perſon ſent or conveyed as aforeſaid, that ſhall, within ſix months after his return into this kingdom, in the High Court of Chancery, or Court of King's-Bench, in term-time, between the hours of eight and twelve in the morning, take the oaths, and repeat and ſubſcribe the declaration, mentioned and appointed in and by one act, lately made in the Parliament of England, [intitled, an act for abrogating the oath of ſupremacy in Ireland, and appointing other oaths] ſhall from thenceforth be diſcharged of all the incapacities and diſabilities aforeſaid; and ſhall, from the time of his taking ſuch oaths, and making, repeating and ſubſcribing ſuch declaration, be reſtored to the receipt of the future growing rents, iſſues and profits of his ſaid real eſtate only; but ſhall, nevertheleſs, loſe all the paſt rents, iſſues and profits thereof, and all his perſonal eſtate; any thing before in this act to the contrary notwithſtanding.

Provided alſo, that if ſuch perſon or perſons at any time after his or their taking the ſaid oaths, and making, repeating and ſubſcribing the ſaid declaration, profeſs him, her or themſelves of the Popiſh religion, or refuſe the taking the ſaid oaths, and repeating and ſubſcribing the ſaid declaration, when the ſame ſhall be to him, her or them, rendered by the Juſtices of the Peace in their open Quarter-Seſſions of the Peace for the county, or place where ſuch perſon or perſons ſhall reſide: which

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the ſaid Juſtices are hereby authorized and required, to tender to all whom they ſhall ſuſpect to have relapſed, or ſhall upon due ſummons refuſe to appear at ſuch Quarter-Seſſion, for the purpoſe aforeſaid, in every ſuch caſe, the ſaid perſon or perſons ſhall incur, forfeit and ſuffer all and every the diſabilities, pains, penalties and loſſes, herein before contained, as if ſuch perſon or perſons had never taken the ſaid oaths, or repeated and ſubſcribed the ſaid declaration.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforeſaid, that all and every the offences againſt this act, may be inquired into, heard and determined before the Juſtices of the King's-Bench, or Juſtices of Aſſize, or Gaol-Delivery, or of Oyer and Terminer of ſuch counties where the offenders did laſt dwell or abide, or whence he, ſhe or they departed, or were ſent out of the kingdom, or where he, ſhe or they went, or ſhall be reſpectively taken or apprehended.

Provided always, that if any perſon ſhall upon his tryal before the Juſtices of the Peace, at the General Quarter-Seſſions, be acquitted by the ſaid Court, of any offence againſt this act, or upon his appeal to the Judges of Aſſize, in ſuch manner as by this act is directed, ſhall by the ſaid Judges of Aſſize be acquitted; or in caſe he ſhall upon his tryal be acquitted by the Jury, upon any indictment, preſentment or information, proſecuted againſt him for any offence contrary to this act, ſuch perſon ſo acquitted, ſhall not be lyable after ſuch acquittal to be proſecuted upon this act in any other manner for the ſame offence.

And whereas it is found by experience that tolerating and conniving at Papiſts keeping ſchools or inſtructing

youth in literature, is one great reaſon of many of the natives of this kingdom, continuing ignorant of the principles of true religion, and ſtrangers to the ſcriptures, and of their neglecting to conform themſelves to the laws and ſtatutes of this realm, and of their not uſing the Engliſh habit and language, to the great prejudice of the publick weal thereof:

Be it further enacted by the authority aforeſaid, that no perſon whatſoever of the Popiſh religion, ſhall publickly teach ſchool, or inſtruct youth in learning within this realm from henceforth, except only the children or others under the guardianſhip of the maſter or miſtreſs of ſuch private houſe or family, upon pain of twenty pounds, and alſo being committed to priſon, without bail or mainprize, for the ſpace of three months for every ſuch offence: And to the intent that no pretence may be made or uſed, that there are not ſufficient numbers of ſchools in this realm to inſtruct and inform the youth thereof in the Engliſh language, and other literature:"

Be it further enacted by the authority aforeſaid, that one act of Parliament, made in the twenty-eighth year of the reign of King Henry the Eighth, called, an act for the Engliſh order, habit and language, whereby it is among other things enacted and provided, that every Incumbent of each pariſh with this kingdom, ſhall keep or cauſe to be kept within the place, territory or pariſh where he ſhall have preheminence, rule, benefice or promotion, a ſchool to learn Engliſh: And alſo, one other act made in the twelfth year of the reign of the late Queen Elizabeth, entitled, an act for the erection of Free-Schools, whereby it is enacted and provided, that a publick Latin Free-School be conſtantly maintained

tained and kept within each dioceſs of this kingdom, which have been generally maintained and kept, but have not had the deſired effect, by reaſon of ſuch Iriſh Popiſh ſchools, being too much connived at, and all other acts and ſtatutes now in force in this realm, concerning ſchools, ſhall from henceforth be ſtrictly obſerved and put in execution, according to the good intent and deſign of the ſame, and for the more effectual doing thereof the Juſtices of his Majeſty's Court of King's Bench each Term, and the Judges of Aſſize in their reſpective circuits, and the Juſtices of Peace in their general Seſſions of Peace are required to give this and the ſaid former acts in charge from time to time, to the ſeveral Grand-Juries to be then impannelled and charged, and to be very circumſpect in ſeeing the ſame put in due execution.

12th GEORGE II. Chap. 9.

This act is entitled, *An Act for the more Effectual Erecting and better Regulating of Free-Schools, and for Rebuilding and Repairing of Churches.*

WHEREAS an act of parliament made in the twelfth year of the reign of Queen Elizabeth, of Glorious Memory, intitled, "An act for the erecting of Free-Schools," has not anſwered the pious and good deſign thereby intended, by reaſon of ſundry defects that are in the ſaid act.

II. And whereas the places by the ſaid act appointed for the building and erecting of ſuch free-ſchools, being the

the principal Shire-town of every dioceſs where ſchool-houſes be not already builded, are left at too great an uncertainty, ſome dioceſſes conſiſting only of part of one or more counties, and having no ſuch Shire-town, and others more than one within them; and it being not eaſie in ſome places to determine which is the principal Shire-town of the dioceſs:

III. Be it enacted by the King's Moſt Excellent Majeſty, by and with the advice and conſent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons in this preſent Parliament aſſembled, and by the authority of the ſame, that it ſhall and may be lawful for every Archbiſhop, Biſhop, Dean, Dean and Chapter, Dignitary or Prebendary of a Cathedral-church out of any land to him, them, or any of them, in any wiſe belonging, by deed, to be inrolled in the High-court of Chancery of this kingdom, to appoint and ſet apart any piece of ground not exceeding one plantation acre, and lying near the Cathedral-church, or in ſome more convenient part of each reſpective dioceſs, to be approved of by the Chief Governor or Governors of this kingdom for the time being, under his or their hand and ſeal for the uſe of the maſter of the free-ſchool of the ſaid dioceſs; and that ſuch piece of ground ſo ſet out, ſhall for ever be deemed and reputed to be the place for the free-ſchool of the ſaid dioceſs; and that in every dioceſs until ſuch piece of ground ſhall be ſet out and appointed for the place of the free-ſchool, the ſaid free-ſchool ſhall and may be kept in ſuch convenient place within the ſaid dioceſs, as the Archbiſhop or Biſhop of the ſame can procure either for a yearly rent, or otherwiſe.

IV. Provided, that where in any dioceſs there already is a piece of ground legally appropriated to the uſe

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of a Dioceſs-ſchool, ſuch piece of ground ſo appropriated, ſhall for ever be and remain in the place of the Dioceſs-ſchool of the ſaid dioceſs; any thing in this preſent act to the contrary notwithſtanding.

V. And whereas the ſaid act appoints, that the free-ſchool of each dioceſs ſhall be builded and erected at the coſt and charges of the whole dioceſs, without reſpect of freedoms, by the deviſe and overſight of the ordinaries of the dioceſs, or of the Vicars-General (Sede vacante) and the Sheriff of the Shire, but no ſufficient man is appointed for the applotting or levying of ſuch money as upon that occaſion may be found neceſſary, by reaſon whereof, and of the want of fixed and ſettled places to be appropriated unto ſuch ſchools in moſt dioceſſes, no money has ever yet been raiſed for the building of ſuch free-ſchool, and where any ſuch money has been raiſed, it has hitherto turned to very little account:

VI. Be it therefore enacted by the authority aforeſaid, that no money ſhall be raiſed for erecting of ſuch ſchool, until ſuch time as a place for the ſame ſhall according to this preſent act, or in ſome other ſufficient manner be appointed, and that from and after ſuch appointment of a place for a free-ſchool within any dioceſs, it ſhall and may be lawful for the grand-jury of each county from time to time, to preſent ſuch ſum or ſums of money as they ſhall find reaſonable, to be levied for their reſpective proportion towards the building or repairing ſuch Dioceſs-ſchool, which ſum or ſums ſo preſented, the preſentment being confirmed by the Court, ſhall be levied upon the whole, or ſuch part of the ſaid county as ſhall be ſituate in each reſpective dioceſs in ſuch manner as other publick money is levied upon preſentments made by grand-juries.

VII. And

VII. And be it further enacted by the authority aforeſaid, that when any money ſhall be levied towards the building of a Free-ſchool in the manner herein mentioned, the ſame ſhall be paid by the Treaſurer of the county into the hands of ſuch perſon as the Grand-jury in their preſentment ſhall appoint, who ſhall account for the ſame upon oath in ſuch manner, and at ſuch time as the reſpective Grand-juries ſhall direct, or in their preſentment appoint.

VIII. And whereas, two-third parts of the yearly ſtipend or ſalary appointed by the ſaid act for the maſter of a Free-ſchool, ariſing out of all and ſingular the eccleſiaſtical livings in the reſpective dioceſſes, are divided into ſuch very ſmall parts as to render the collecting of the ſame both troubleſome and expenſive;

IX. Be it enacted by the authority aforeſaid, that every perſon being a beneficed clergyman, who by vertue of the ſaid act does or ſhall ſtand obliged to pay any part or proportion of the ſaid two-third parts, ſhall yearly at the viſitation held for the proper dioceſs, account with the ſchool-maſter to whom the ſame ought to be paid, and accordingly pay whatever ſhall appear to be due unto him; and if he ſhall not accordingly pay what ſhall be ſo due, within three calendar months after the day of ſuch viſitation, then it ſhall and may be lawful to and for the Archbiſhop, Biſhop, Vicar-general or Chancellor of the dioceſs, to ſequeſter the profits of the benefice belonging to ſuch clergyman for the payment thereof, until the ſame ſhall be levied or paid.

X. And whereas moſt of the lands which were granted by King Charles the Firſt, to James then Lord Archbiſhop of Ardmagh, and his ſucceſſors in truſt for the maſters of ſeveral free-ſchools for the time being, do to the great

great diſadvantage of the country continue unimproved; becauſe the tenants holding ſuch lands, cannot have a certain intereſt therein for any term of years.

XI. Be it enacted by the authority aforeſaid, that it ſhall and may be lawful to and for the Archbiſhop of Ardmagh, and his ſucceſſors, by and with the conſent of the reſpective ſchool-maſters, teſtified by their being parties, and ſigning ſuch leaſe or leaſes, to demiſe, ſett, and to farm lett, all or any part of the ſaid lands for any term not exceeding twenty-one years, and for no longer term from the making thereof, at, and under the beſt and moſt improved rent that can be got for the ſame, to be reſerved to the ſaid Archbiſhop and his ſucceſſors, in truſt for the maſters of the ſaid reſpective ſchools for the time being, ſo as there be no other leaſe in being, which ſhall not expire within one year from the making ſuch leaſe or leaſes.

XII. And whereas ſeveral pariſhes in this kingdom are, and others are likely to become non-cures, though there are ſeveral Proteſtant families inhabiting therein, for want of places of public worſhip; the pariſh-churches being in ſo great decay that divine ſervice cannot therein be performed, and the ſaid churches cannot be rebuilt or repaired, the Popiſh inhabitants of ſuch pariſhes obſtructing the ſame by their out-voting the Proteſtant inhabitants at their veſtries duly appointed for that purpoſe. For the preventing therefore of Papiſts having it in their power to obſtruct the rebuilding and repairing churches for divine worſhip,

XIII. Be it enacted by the authority aforeſaid, that no inhabitant of any pariſh in this kingdom, being a Papiſt, ſhall at any time hereafter be capable of giving his or their vote at any veſtry or veſtries in this kingdom, to be

held for the purpoſes aforeſaid. And for the more ſpeedy and effectual levying ſuch money as ſhall be agreed upon, aſſeſſed and ordered at veſtries for building and repairing of churches,

XIV. Be it enacted by the authority aforeſaid, that the ſame may and ſhall be raiſed and levied by warrant under the hands and ſeals of two or more Juſtices of the Peace of the county where ſuch pariſh doth lie, by the Church-wardens of ſuch pariſh, by diſtreſs and ſale of the goods of the perſon or perſons refuſing or neglecting to pay the ſum or ſums of money duly applotted and charged on them purſuant to ſuch act of veſtry, together with the charges of ſuch diſtreſs and ſale, returning the overplus if any ſhall be, any law to the contrary notwithſtanding; and in caſe any perſon or perſons ſhall think him or themſelves aggrieved by any ſuch aſſeſſment or applotment to be made as aforeſaid, or the levying thereof, he or they ſhall be at liberty to appeal to the next Quarter-Seſſions held for the ſaid county, who are hereby impowered to hear, and finally to determine the ſame.

23d GEORGE II. Chap. II.

This Act is entitled, *An Act to provide for Begging Children, and for the better Regulation of Charity Schools, and for taking up Vagrants and Offenſive Beggars in the City of Dublin, and Liberties thereof, and the Liberties thereto adjoyning.*

WHEREAS there are in almoſt every part of this kingdom, great numbers of helpleſs children, who are forced to beg, and who will in all likelihood, if ſome proper

proper care be not taken of their education, become hereafter not only unprofitable, but dangerous to their country.

And whereas, it is hoped that many of them may be entertained in comfortable ſervices, and others may be bound out to, and bred up in uſeful callings, if well diſpoſed perſons could have any fair proſpect of receiving hereafter by the labour of ſuch poor children, any return ſuitable to the trouble and charges they muſt neceſſarily undergo, in bringing them through that ſtate of childhood.

And whereas the Incorporated Society for promoting Engliſh Proteſtant Schools in Ireland, have, in purſuance of their charter, provided conveniencies for the reception, education, and placing out, of ſuch children in due time, in ſuch manner as they may become uſeful members of the community to which they belong, and alſo, be enabled to get a comfortable livelihood for themſelves.

And whereas by an act made in the ſecond year of his late Majeſty King George the Firſt, intituled, "An act to impower Juſtices of the Peace to determine diſputes about ſervants, artificers, day-labourers wages, and other ſmall demands, and to oblige maſters to pay the ſame, and to puniſh idle and diſorderly ſervants;" It is among other things enacted, "That the Miniſter and Church-wardens of every pariſh in this kingdom, may and ſhall have power, from and after the twenty-fourth day of June, in the year of our Lord, one thouſand ſeven hundred and ſixteen, to bind out with the conſent and approbation of one of his Majeſty's Juſtices of the Peace, for the county where ſuch pariſh ſhall lie, any child they find begging within their pariſh, or any other

poor child within the pariſh, with the conſent of the father, if living, or of the mother, if the father be dead, to any honeſt and ſubſtantial Proteſtant houſe-keeper, or Proteſtant tradeſman, that will entertain ſuch child as a menial ſervant, till ſuch child arrives to the age of one and twenty, or to any *creditable* tradeſman as an apprentice to his trade, till ſuch apprentice be twenty-four years old compleat;" which act having hitherto proved ineffectual, and greater numbers than ever of ſuch begging children being found in all parts of this kingdom;

For remedy whereof, be it enacted by the King's Moſt Excellent Majeſty, by and with the advice and conſent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons in the preſent Parliament aſſembled, and by the authority of the ſame, that from and after the twenty-ninth day of September, which ſhall be in the year of our Lord, one thouſand ſeven hundred and fifty, it ſhall and may be lawful to and for the Incorporate Society aforeſaid, under their ſeal, to authorize and appoint ſuch and ſo many perſons, as they ſhall think proper in every province in this kingdom, to take up all and every ſuch child and children, as they ſhall find begging, carried or led about by any vagrant begging perſon whatſoever within ſuch province, who ſhall appear to them to be under the age of twelve years, and above the age of five years, which perſons and every of them ſo appointed by the ſaid Society, are directed and hereby authorized, to apprehend ſuch child or children, and by the order and directions of ſome one of his Majeſty's Juſtices of the Peace of the county or county of the city, or town where ſuch child or children ſhall be found as aforeſaid, to convey him, or them, to ſuch charter-ſchool as ſhall be convenient to them, and the maſter or miſtreſs of the ſaid char-

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ter-ſchool is hereby required to take into his or her care, and to ſupport ſuch child or children as ſhall be ſo delivered to them, till the ſaid maſter or miſtreſs ſhall receive directions from the ſaid Society, or the Committee of the ſaid Society yearly appointed, commonly called the Committee of Fifteen, or any three of the ſaid Committee for the further diſpoſal of him, her or them.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforeſaid, that it may and ſhall be lawful to and for the ſaid Society, or the ſaid Committee of the ſaid Society, or any three of the ſaid Committee, to ſend ſuch child or children ſo taken up, to be educated in any ſuch charter-ſchool of this kingdom, and when of proper age to bind out him, her or them, to any Proteſtant maſter or miſtreſs till ſuch child arrives at the age of one and twenty years, or as an apprentice to any creditable Proteſtant tradeſman, till ſuch apprentice be twenty-four years old compleat.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforeſaid, that the age of every child ſo bound out as a menial ſervant, or as an apprentice, ſhall be aſcertained in the indenture by which the child is bound out, and the age fixed by ſuch indenture, ſhall, in all controverſies that may ariſe between ſuch ſervant or apprentice, and their reſpective maſters and miſtreſſes, be deemed and taken for the true age of ſuch child, and an exemplification of ſuch indentures, which ſhall be always entered in a book of the ſaid Society, to be kept for that purpoſe, and ſigned by the ſaid Committee of Fifteen, or any three of them, ſhall in all controverſies relating thereto, be as authentick as a counter-part of the ſaid indenture.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforeſaid, that if any child received into ſuch charter, or any other charity-ſchool, or bound out as aforeſaid, ſhall withdraw him

him or herſelf from ſuch charter or other charity-ſchool, without licence of the maſter or miſtreſs, or behave him or herſelf diſorderly, ſuch child or apprentice ſhall be puniſhed in ſuch manner, as hired ſervants departing their maſters ſervice, within the time for which they are hired, are liable to be puniſhed by the ſaid act of the ſecond of King George the Firſt.

Provided always, and be it further enacted by the authority aforeſaid, that if any party ſhall think him or herſelf aggrieved, by any thing which ſhall be done in purſuance of this act, he or ſhe may appeal to the next General Quarter-Seſſions of the Peace, to be held for the county, or county of the city or town, where the party complained of in ſuch appeal ſhall reſide, notice of which appeal ſhall be given in writing to the other party, fourteen days before ſuch General Quarter-Seſſions, and the reſpective Juſtices of the Peace, or the greater part of them, who ſhall hold ſuch Quarter-Seſſions, are hereby impowed and required to hear and determine the matter of ſuch appeal, and to give under their reſpective hands and ſeals a certificate in writing, ſignifying what their determination is, which ſhall be final and concluſive to all parties; and all perſons concerned, are hereby required, upon ſuch certificate being produced to him, her or them, immediately to comply with, and to obey ſuch determination, and if any ſuch perſon ſhall neglect or refuſe ſo to do, he, ſhe or they may be indicted, at ſome following Quarter-Seſſions, to be held as aforeſaid as for a miſdemeanor, and puniſhed if found guilty, as by law perſons guilty of miſdemeanors, may now be puniſhed.

Provided always, that in caſe there be not ſufficient time to give the ſaid fourteen days notice, that then the

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ſaid appeal ſhall be made to the ſecond Quarter-Seſſions on giving the like notice.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforeſaid, that if any perſon ſhall ſeduce or entice to run away, or ſhall forcibly carry away, or attempt to carry away any child placed or going to be placed in any of the ſaid charter or charity-ſchools, or from their ſervices or apprenticeſhips, if bound out, or ſhall harbour, conceal or entertain any ſuch child knowingly, the perſon ſo offending, being thereof lawfully convicted, ſhall be committed to the houſe of correction, for ſix months, there to be employed in hard labour.

And whereas it has been found that ſeveral children, who have been received into the charter-ſchools, at the requeſt or by the conſent of the father or mother, and others who have been ſo received at the requeſt of perſons being, or pretending to be the relations or relations, friend or friends of ſuch child or children, have been afterwards claimed and demanded by their parents, or others upon divers pretences, to the great detriment of ſuch charter-ſchools, and the defeating in ſome meaſure the purpoſes for which they were erected;

For remedy thereof, be it further enacted by the authority aforeſaid, that from the time aforeſaid every child received into any charter ſchool, with the conſent of the father or mother, ſhall from thenceforth be, and be reputed to be the child of the public, and it ſhall and may be lawful to and for the Incorporated Society to detain and diſpoſe of ſuch child in manner as aforeſaid, notwithſtanding any claim of right to ſuch child or children, made, or to be made by the father or mother, or any perſon whatſoever, and in caſe any child ſhall have been received into any of the ſaid charter

charter ſchools at the requeſt of any perſon or perſons, being or pretending to be the relation or relations, friend or friends of ſuch child, with or without the conſent of the father or mother, ſuch child ſhall likewiſe be, and be reputed to be the child of the public; and it ſhall and may be lawful to and for the Incorporated Society aforeſaid, to detain and diſpoſe of ſuch child in manner as aforeſaid, unleſs the father or mother of ſuch child ſhall, within three months after the reception of ſuch child into ſuch charter-ſchool, claim and demand the ſame, as having been placed there without his, her or their, or either of their knowledge and conſent, and ſhall make proof by oath taken in writing before any of his Majeſty's Juſtices of the Peace, which oath the ſaid Juſtice of the Peace is hereby impowered to adminiſter, of his or her being the father or reputed father or mother of ſuch child, and that ſuch child was ſo placed without his, her, or their, or either of their knowledge and conſent, and ſhall alſo pay into the hands, or to the order of the local committee for ſuch charter-ſchool, the ſum of two ſhillings for every week the ſaid child hath continued, and been maintained in ſuch charter-ſchool, in which caſe, and upon proof made as aforeſaid, ſuch child ſhall be reſtored to ſuch father or mother ſo claiming and demanding the ſame.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforeſaid, that if it ſhall happen that any ſchool-maſter of any ſuch charter or other charity ſchool, ſhall have carnal knowledge of any female child above the age of twelve years under his care, or if any ſchoolmaſter or ſchool-miſtreſs ſhall conſent, or be privy to any other perſon ſo doing, he or ſhe being convicted thereof at the Aſſizes ſhall,

ſhall, for ſuch offence, be three times publicly whipped, upon three ſeveral market days at noon, in the County Town where ſuch perſon ſhall be ſo convicted.

29th GEORGE II. Chap. 7.

This act is entitled, *An Act for amending an Act paſſed in the Twelfth Year of the Reign of His late Majeſty King* GEORGE *the Firſt, intituled, An Act for the more Effectual erecting and better regulating of Free-Schools, and for rebuilding and repairing Churches.*

WHEREAS by an act of Parliament made in the twelfth year of his late majeſty King George the firſt, ("intitled, an Act for the more effectual erecting and better regulating of free-ſchools, and rebuilding and repairing of churches;") it is among other things enacted, that from and after appointment of a place for a free-ſchool within any dioceſe, it ſhall and may be lawful for the Grand-jury of each County from time time to preſent ſuch ſum or ſums of money as they ſhall find reaſonable to be levied, for their reſpective proportion, towards the rebuilding or repairing ſuch Dioceſe-ſchool; which ſum and ſums ſo preſented, the preſentment being confirmed by Court, ſhall be levied upon the whole, or ſuch part of the ſaid County, as ſhall be ſituate in each reſpective Dioceſe, in ſuch manner as other public money is levied, upon preſentments amde by Grand-Juries."

And whereas ſeveral Dioceſes in this Kingdom conſiſt of parts of ſeveral Counties, and it is found by experience impracticable, when the ſum is ſmall, to levy ſuch proportionable Preſentments as are required by the ſaid recited Act.

And whereas the Repairs annually amount to an inconſiderable ſum, and the whole County receives benefit from having the Dioceſe-School ſituate within it;

Be it therefore enacted by the King's moſt excellent Majeſty, by and with the advice and conſent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons in this preſent Parliament aſſembled, and by the authority of the ſame, that from and after the firſt Day of February, which will be in the year one thouſand ſeven hundred and fifty ſeven, the Grand-Jury of each County, wherein a Dioceſe-School is ſituate, may from time to time at the Aſſizes to be held for ſaid County, preſent ſuch ſum or ſums of Money, as they ſhall find reaſonable, for the Repairs of the ſaid School; which ſum or ſums ſo preſented (the Preſentment being confirmed by the Court) ſhall be levied upon the County at large in ſuch manner as other public Money is levied, upon Preſentments made by Grand-Juries.

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